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AFTER COMMISSION OKS 'FINAL DRAFT'

It's now up to Best Sunshine

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

>> Governor: Good news for CNMI

Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s parent company, the Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., now has to either accept or make further changes to the proposal that the Lottery Commission approved yesterday for an exclusive Saipan casino development. The \$2 billion to over \$3 billion integrated casino resort agreement is "not final" until Imperial Pacific accepts it.

If and when the five-member Imperial Pacific board offers further changes to the proposal in its latest form, negotiations with the Lottery Commission will continue.

But if Imperial Pacific accepts it, both parties will then sign the agreement that will bind the CNMI for up to 40 years.

"It's up to the applicant now, Imperial Pacific, who would look at this as the authority on the other side of the equa-

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From left, Best Sunshine International Ltd. chief operating officer Terence Tay, Lottery Commission's Larrisa Larson, commission chair Sixto Igisomar and commissioner Gilbert Birnrich confer after a commission meeting wrapped up on Capital Hill yesterday. The Lottery Commission approved an exclusive Saipan integrated casino resort agreement, which will only become final once accepted by Best Sunshine's parent company, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. of Hong Kong.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Nearly 100 candidates for 47 seats

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

There are nearly 100 individuals who want to be elected to at least 47 CNMI government seats—from municipal council members to the attorney general and the governor's post.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero said last night that as of the 6pm deadline, 98 individuals have

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DUE TO LAUNCH OF NEW FLIGHT PROGRAM

MVA: Aviacharters DV cancels Sept., Oct. flights

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The airline that brings Russian tourists to the Commonwealth, AviaCharters DV, will be suspending flights in September and October to make way for the launch

of a new flight program.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority Perry Tenorio and MVA marketing specialist for Russia Tatiana Babauta, AviaCharters DV is partnering up with Orenburg Airlines for a new flight program to the CNMI.

AviaCharters DV announced on their website that at the end of October of this year they will launch a new flight program that will run a new plane.

Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* that the seat capacity of the airplane that

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Local

CPA board to review Saipan airport concession deal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider administered the oath of office yesterday to Barrie Toves, who is serving his third term as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors. Toves said that among

the issues he will be involved in is the review of the existing Saipan airport master concession agreement with Duty Free Shoppers and protecting passengers' interests amid rampant delays and cancellations of Cape Air/United Airlines flights to and from the CNMI.

Toves, who represents Rota

on the CPA board, was initially appointed to finish the remaining term of a former board member in 2008. He was reappointed to serve his first full four-year term in 2010 and that expired on May 13 this year. He got reappointed to his second full term.

The Rota CPA board member

said CPA's master concession agreement with DFS is expiring in November 2015.

He was previously part of an ad hoc committee that was looking into that airport concession agreement. Now that he is back on the CPA board, he said he will work on this "unfinished business."

Toves said among the considerations now is whether CPA will negotiate only with DFS for the airport concession, or should CPA issue a request for proposal so that other investors' offers can also be considered. He said CPA is also open to unsolicited proposals.

He said the original conces-

sion agreement was "watered down" to a point wherein DFS retained only the shopping or merchandise portion and let go of the rest. Moreover, the original deal, he said, covered not only the Saipan airport but also Rota and Tinian airports. But he said the Rota and Tinian concession deals did not materialize.



'HELPING HAND'

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, confers with Bridge Capital LLC manager and co-owner Shawn Scott, right, in the governor's main conference room during Bridge Capital's presentation of donation checks to 18 non-profit groups and entities on Tuesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

OPM: Govt employees should go on leave after candidacy's certification

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Personnel director Isidro K. Seman reminded government employees who are seeking political office to take a leave "immediately" after the Commonwealth Election Commission's board certifies their candidacy.

The certification of candidacies for the Nov. 4 general elections is set for Wednesday, Aug. 13.

"Employees will not be allowed to work on weekends nor use sick leave or any other paid leave during this time. Candidates will be allowed to return to work following the announcement of the election

results," Seman said in a July 31 memorandum to all department and activity heads.

Many of the nearly 100 individuals who filed their candidacies with the Election Commission as of yesterday's deadline are government employees.

"Please be informed that in accordance with NMIAC 10-20.2-472, once the Election Commission certifies a government employee's candidacy for a political office, that employee must take leave immediately by either utilizing annual leave or leave without pay," Seman said in his one-page memo, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

The personnel director said enforcement is "immediate and consistent."



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US govt wants to seize pension funds of Villagomez, Santos couple

» **Villagomez, Santos still owe US govt \$1.09M**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

In anticipation of the release of funds to restore the 25-percent pension cut of CNMI retirees, the U.S. government has asked the federal court to be allowed to seize funds that will be released to former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, former Commerce secretary James A. Santos, and his wife, Joaquina V. Santos.

According to assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Cruz, the funds will be used to partially satisfy the judgment against Villagomez and the Santos couple.

Cruz said that, as of July 31, 2014, Villagomez still owes \$340,900.97 in restitution—\$339,092.29 in principal and \$1,808.68 in interest.

Also, as of July 31, 2014, James Santos and Joaquina V. Santos have a total balance due of \$372,621.53 and \$372,621.53 respectively, Cruz said.

In separate applications for writ of execution filed Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Cruz said the restoration of the 25-percent cut in the pensions of Villagomez and the Santos and any interest they are entitled to is imminent and that such funds will be available for immediate release to the defendants.

Writ of execution refers to an order from the court to the sheriff that allows the sheriff to collect money owed or take possession of property owned by a judgment debtor.

In his declaration, Cruz said Public Law No. 18-56 (casino law fix) provides that the allocation of \$28 million (combined) from the annual license fee to the First and Second Senatorial District Legislative Delegations must first be appropriated to pay for the 25-percent reduction of these districts' retirees and the beneficiaries' pension.

The lawyer said Public Law 18-56 also provides that of the \$26 million allocated from the annual license fees in the first year to the Third Senatorial District, \$25 million must be expended by the Finance secretary to restore the 25-percent reduction of the retirees' and the beneficiaries' pensions of the district and to pay interest to active members who terminated their membership in the defined-benefit plan.

Further, Cruz said, the law provides that of the \$11 million allocated from the license fees in the following years to the Third Senatorial District, \$10 million must be expended by the Finance secretary to restore the 25-percent reduction of the retirees' and the beneficiaries' pensions of the district.

Cruz said any funds that have been or will be appropriated pursuant to Public Law 18-56

that will be in the possession and/or control of the NMI Settlement Funds in the immediate future, and to which the defen-

dants have a legal interest, are subject of execution and may be seized to satisfy the judgment against them.

The defendants were convicted for their role in a conspiracy to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through needless

purchases of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme.

The federal court re-sentenced Villagomez to nine years

in prison. In August 2009, the court sentenced the Santos couple to six years and six months in prison each.



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Congratulations
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Passenger bemoans experience with Cape Air service

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

While a crowd of athletes, fresh from their competition in Pohnpei, poured out of the sliding doors of the airport in waves of the Commonwealth's light blue colors, one man stood anxiously waiting, eyes fixed on the sliding doors, awaiting something less warm, not a friend or a family member but something as potentially important to his

life: his luggage, which Cape Air was unable to provide him with on his arrival on Saipan the day before.

Alan Wickman, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, called his recent and most likely last flight with United, "the worst flight of my life."

He said he had booked a ticket for Saipan as late as a month ago but when he got aboard in Guam, he was "kicked off the plane" because it was full.

On top of that, the airline lost both of his luggage.

"It took me three hours to find them. [United] finally got me to a hotel at midnight," he said.

When he finally arrived on Saipan the next morning, he said it took passengers an hour to get off the plane as a crewmember could not get the door to open.

"Everyone was freaking out," he said.

He noted that one passenger had been stuck in Guam since last Thursday and another

since Saturday, and were both kicked out of their flights.

"Everybody was upset, everybody was mad, and then I get here [on Saipan] and they lost my luggage again. It was awful, absolutely awful."

He noted that the airline's service crew seemed like they did not cooperate well with each other, as he felt like "they didn't care."

He gave the example of a United service where his flight's gate was changed, and then changed again at the last minute, as the flight was about to leave.

"We've got to walk another six blocks that way, and possibly miss our flight. I don't understand why they do that," he said.

He noted he made a lot of friends on his recent flight as collective frustration grew amongst passengers.

"They were not being shy with it," he said about passenger frustration.

He said from this flight he could gather a general example of what people suffered under United service.

What [United would] do is, you'd be bumped off a flight,

right, and they would put your bags on that flight, and you sit there going, 'Okat, I'm here for a week' [without] clothes. My money's in there, my wallet's in there, y'know, my socks and underwear, my toothbrush are in there, my bills are in there and I'm here for a week, what are you supposed to do?"

Cape Air has been experiencing a spate of flight cancellations in the last few weeks, mainly due to "mechanical issues." United has been providing accommodating flights for stranded passengers between Saipan, Guam, and Rota.



Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), seated fourth from right, poses with his family and supporters during the filing of his candidacy yesterday on Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CANDIDATES

From Page 1

filed their candidacies for the Nov. 4 general elections.

Only a few individuals

waited for the last day to file their candidacies yesterday, including Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), who filed his candidacy on Rota. Manglona marks his 26th year at the Senate, whom he led as presi-

dent for multiple terms.

Guerrero said while there were 98 who filed their candidacies, the election board still has to certify these candidacies before they become official candidates for the November race.

The 47 seats up for grabs in the general elections include those for governor/lieutenant governor, delegate, attorney general, 20 House of Representatives seats, six Senate seats, four mayors, nine municipal

council members, and two Board of Education members, along with one justice and two judges who are up for retention, Guerrero said.

He said there were individuals who filed their candidacies

on Rota and Tinian yesterday.

The Election Commission is also reminding CNMI residents that are U.S. citizens and who would like to register to vote for the Nov. 4 general elections that the last day to register is Sept. 5.

MVA

From Page 1

AviaCharters is currently using is about 186. The new plane will be a Boeing 737-800 that carries 168 seats, with 12 of them in business class.

Tenorio said the information

they got from AviaCharters as of now is that they will cease flights on Sept. 1 and will begin on Oct. 27.

"This time of the year, we're looking at the cancellation and the impact on hotels that we might not have those air services and confer if we can have the Asiana Airlines help

with that," Tenorio said.

Hoteliers so far are not experiencing mass cancellations but a few cancellations and change in flight plans only.

According to Pacific Islands Club general manager Hiroki Sugie, some Russian tour agents have already started canceling future bookings

but he is not sure of other cancellations.

Saipan World Resort Russian market manager Oleg Chentsov said that some tour agents have cancelled a few bookings while many others transferred their flights to Asiana Airlines.

AviaCharter chief executive

officer Roman Chernyavskii announced in the company's website that all Russian tour agents were informed of the new flight program prior to the changes.

Chernyavskii stated that they have met with Orenburg Airlines and that agreements were reached on the imple-

mentation of the new flight program.

The new flight program, according to Chernyavskii's statement, includes a new plane, a Boeing 737-800, and the geography of flights to Saipan and Guam will be expanded to add the Philippines (Manila), Bali, and Tashkent.

SUNSHINE

From Page 1

tion...and confirm on their end whether it's something that will meet their investment needs," Lottery Commission chair Sixto Igisomar said.

Signing of the casino development agreement or the final grant of a casino license will pave the way for the release of \$30 million in escrow.

This will fund retirees' deferred 25-percent pension and interest on defined benefit members' withdrawn contributions.

By unanimous vote, the four-member Lottery Commission approved at 1:45pm yesterday on Capital Hill the proposed casino agreement and is now awaiting Imperial Pacific's action.

Besides Igisomar, the three other commissioners are Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, Attorney General-nominee Gilbert Birnrich, and Finance Secretary

Larrisa Larson.

'Huge step'

Terence Tay, chief operating officer of Best Sunshine, said the parties have taken a "huge step forward" and thanked the Lottery Commission members and counsel Jim Stump for their efforts in the casino application process.

"Today is a huge step forward and it brings us a lot closer to having an agreement signed and then we can move from here," Tay told reporters after the commission meeting.

The challenges, he said, are not just about availability of lands on which a casino resort will be developed. Construction, he said, is also going to be quite massive.

"There will be challenges but I will not go so far as to say that it is impossible," Tay added.

He said Imperial Pacific's planned investment in the CNMI is over \$3 billion, way beyond the minimum \$2 billion required by the Saipan casino law.

The number of rooms to be built will also exceed the minimum 2,000 rooms that the law requires.

Commissioner Larson, during the meeting, said the commission's approval of the agreement that's being presented to Imperial Pacific "is a major step toward wrapping up all of our work."

"I would say we're very close to finality but we're not there yet," she said.

'Good news'

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said this is "good news for the Commonwealth."

"With the agreement reached after back and forth negotiations, we have here an unprecedented opportunity to steer our economy toward recovery and prosperity," the governor said. "I just hope now that Best Sunshine will fast track their board's approval so that we can all move along with the process."

The five-member Imperial Pacific board is familiar with

the terms and conditions in the draft agreement but they still have to see its final form after both parties negotiated the parameters of the deal.

Tay said one week is a reasonable time for the Imperial Pacific board to review the proposal.

'Best possible agreement'

During the Lottery Commission's meeting, which started at 10am and adjourned at 1:46pm, Deleon Guerrero said with the enormous amount of time and consideration spent on the application process, he's confident that parties "have come up with an agreement that will best suit the interests of both parties."

He said the commission and Best Sunshine have been able to reconcile a lot of the differences they initially had "in terms of crafting an agreement that would be reasonable."

Larson, for her part, said they are very grateful to the public for their patience as the commission went through the appli-

cation and review process.

"We didn't take our responsibilities lightly. This is a very significant investment decision for the Commonwealth. And we feel that we have reviewed everything that has been provided to us and come up with an agreement that will be beneficial to all," Larson said.

She then made a motion to approve the casino license agreement between the Lottery Commission and Imperial Pacific and to authorize the commission chairman to engage the investor once it accepts the proposal.

Birnrich echoed Larson and Deleon Guerrero's statements that a lot of work has been put into the process by all the parties concerned.

He believes that "what has come out is a fair product, fair to Imperial Pacific, and a fair deal for the people of the CNMI and I believe that it should be approved," Birnrich said.

Igisomar also thanked all the parties involved in the applica-

tion and review process.

"It is indeed a proposal. It is not the end of the road," he said.

He hopes that Best Sunshine's Tay will come back to the commission with "great news."

"We believe this is the best we can agree on. Now it's up to Imperial Pacific to receive this once we vote on it...And hopefully they are highly favorable [to this] and come back to us," he added. "Again I want to stress that this is not the final agreement. This is the proposal that will be heading over to Imperial."

The commission then voted on the proposal, which was unanimously approved.

Some community members said yesterday they hope that once both the Lottery Commission and Best Sunshine or Imperial Pacific sign the casino development agreement, that document will be made available to the public.

Moreover, retirees continue to ask, "When do we get our 25-percent pension?"

NMC touts new business degree to Chamber members

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College promoted its new bachelor's degree in business management to employers of potential students at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting yesterday.

According to Chavel Green, department chair of NMC's business department, the college is offering the program to the islands' working population who would like to earn a degree in business management.

"We are having classes scheduled more after work. You'll

find most of our classes scheduled after 5 o'clock and on Saturday morning, right through 6 o'clock in the evening. So you in turn won't have to give [your employees] time off for them to come to classes," Green told business leaders in the crowd.

With schedules designed to suit the community's working hours, the college hopes more employers will motivate their employees to sign up for the degree program.

Green also highlighted the degree's accounting emphasis, which was developed after hearing significant interest from prospective business students

who were more interested in studying accounting over management.

In a separate interview, accounting instructor Richard Waldo said that students need no longer go to Guam or Hawaii to study accounting as they can attend the college here.

He believes this is a step toward helping students become certified public accountants.

According to him, one only needs 24 credits to take the Uniform CPA exam, an amount that the college offers now.

However, 150 credits are needed to become a CPA, he said, equivalent to a master's

degree.

"Maybe [a master's degree] is our next goal," he said.

According to him, Guam is the biggest accounting site for CPAs in the world. He noted that after students complete their business degree with an accounting emphasis on island, they could travel to Guam to take the CPA exam.

He calls the exam the "toughest exam in the world to pass," but unlike state bar exams required for lawyers—which only allows legal practice within the state the test was taken for—the CPA exam allows for employment nationwide.

Essentially, he said, you could take the exam in Guam and practice in Maryland.

He added that being a CPA is approximately the fifteenth most wanted job in America.

On top of the new degree, Bobbi Merfalen, NMC dean of academic programs and services, introduced the crowd to the college's development of its prior learning assessment, or PLA.

According to her, PLA is an academic process that awards credits for knowledge gained during a student's previous job, training, or life experience.

"This fall the college will be having...the BE-200, which is a portfolio development course," Merfalen said.

She said the course will assist students in putting together a portfolio for evaluation.

USDA: About \$400K worth of grant applications from CNMI

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development is currently evaluating several grant applications totaling \$400,000 from the CNMI, according to USDA-RD area director Joseph Diego yesterday.

Diego told *Saipan Tribune* that majority of applications are from the court system, public safety, and the hospital to address some of their critical capital improvement needs.

"The \$50,000 given to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is just one of several grants that have already been given out to improve their services to the community," Diego said.

Some of the grant applications involve several small private organizations as well, he added.

Diego said that there are a total of eight applications right now for the \$400,000.

"Our investment in critical infrastructure that support public health and public safety are

very important to this program. We have determined the CNMI as rural so public health and safety are very important for rural areas," he said.

Diego said that they have given a \$500,000 grant to the solar project for the Marianas Business Plaza and the Department of Public Safety to purchase patrol vehicles.

Diego said that they are trying to get more money for CHCC to buy more equipment and that the court system of the CNMI is also looking into getting new computers and vehicles.

"These are just small awards to address some of the critical needs of these agencies," he said.

Diego told *Saipan Tribune* that they are trying to get funds for two more private organizations in the CNMI by September of this year; the two organizations are applying for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Diego noted that they have several grant programs for education such as for certain programs at the Northern Marianas

College and for the utilities area, a program for wastewater and water is available to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Plans underway to recover hazardous materials from grounded fishing boat

COCOS ISLAND, Guam—The unified command confirmed plans for the recovery of hazardous materials from the grounded fishing vessel in an effort to mitigate impact to the marine environment.

The vessel owner's representative has taken the lead for recovery of hazardous materials and salvage of the vessel. The vessel owner's representative has coordinated for response personnel to be on-scene with the vessel on Aug. 6, 2014. Response personnel will begin the process of removing 45 five gallon containers located on the vessel's upper deck. The containers hold various amounts of lube and hydraulic oils. Response personnel will also determine the amount of fuel in the fuel tank and identify any other hazardous material that needs to be removed.

Once environmental concerns have been addressed, response

personnel will execute the salvage plan to remove the vessel from the reef. A salvage plan is being developed by the owner for presentation and approval by the Federal On-scene Coordinator and Guam Environmental Protection Agency. The FOSC is Commander Coast Guard Sector Guam.

Citizens are reminded that the Coast Guard Captain of the Port Guam has established a 400-yard safety zone around the grounded vessel. This is an exclusion zone and mariners are not authorized within the zone at any time. Entering the zone is a violation of federal law. Mariners, recreational boaters and persons are advised to exercise extreme caution in the vicinity around the safety zone due to the dangers associated with a grounded vessel.

The unified command includes the Guam EPA, the vessel owner's representative, and FOSC. (USCG)

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USDA-RD presents a \$50,000 grant to CHCC

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development, along with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, presented a \$50,000 grant to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials yesterday morning at Lao

» Muña: Fund will be used to buy hospital beds

Lao Bay Golf and Resort in Kagman.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said the money will be pooled with local funds to buy hospital beds for the Commonwealth Health Center.

"This will be for more beds that will go to the corporation and will be added to the local



The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. receives a \$50,000 check from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, which will be used to procure hospital beds.

JAYSON CAMACHO

appropriation that was given for the hospital," Muña said. Gov. Eloy S. Inos just signed

in July a \$2.7 million appropriation for projects on Saipan, of which \$250,000 was given to the

CHCC to procure hospital beds. Muna said the hospital has 76 beds.

"Actually when we did a proposal, we estimated exactly how much, and the amount was significant, but it wasn't enough to buy and completely fill beds in every room because we also have to consider the labor and delivery [sections]," she said.

Muña said this is their first

grant from USDA.

Joseph Diego, USDA area director stationed in Guam, confirmed this.

"This check was given to CHCC because public health is important in the CNMI and is needed and this is our first grant that we gave to CHCC," Diego told *Saipan Tribune* after the check presentation.

Muña noted that the hospital

is looking into telemedicine and that they did try to apply for a grant in the current cycle but ran out of time. The corporation is looking into applying for the next cycle of grants.

"We will try to continue to apply for grants and we have already applied for several grants. It is a worthy cause for this grant and it is a great cause for the community," Muña said.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. Job Vacancy Announcement

(04) REGISTERED NURSE

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and Current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) – Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- Must be flexible with time schedule

(04) BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solectria inverter experience is a must
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions
- Maintains and repairs various equipment
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and building trades areas
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance/plumbing and construction is required
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Must have a valid driver's license

(02) WATER TREATMENT TECHNICIAN

- Must be able to perform task which may at first glance not appear difficult but required a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain system
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment and distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities
- Be familiar with safety and life safety policies
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency text for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing techniques
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with pressure vessels
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques for working with the pressure vessels
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques especially when working with pvc
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned

(02) COMMERCIAL CLEANER

- Operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, such as vacuums, polishers, buffers, etc
- Maintain facility in a sanitary and infection-free condition through washing, cleaning and replacement of equipment and furnishings
- Requires working in damp, dusty and dirty areas. Must clean up human waste and other body fluids, as required
- Responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials
- Must handle various cleaning solvents and chemicals that is required by Medicare
- Damp dust furniture, light fixtures, window, etc
- Empty trash containers daily
- Wet mop floors and bathrooms daily. Damp mop all corridor floors, lobby and others daily
- Report any needed repairs immediately
- Check entire area for spills, water, etc., periodically, especially in patients' areas and lobby
- Use safety precautions in all housekeeping services
- Is required to clean employee's house prior to and post occupancy
- Is required to maintain and clean in an orderly manner at Business, Dr.'s, Accounting, Dietician, and Clinic Manager's Offices
- Must be able to work flexible hours
- Must have own transportation

Interested applicants must submit application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 8/11/2014 at 4:00pm. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

Man who killed eagle ray wants sentence suspended

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A dive master who was sentenced in June to six months in prison for killing a protected spotted eagle ray has asked the Superior Court to stop the execution of his sentence pending his appeal.

Hu Jie Fang, through assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, also asked the court to give him more time to file an appeal.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho heard Fang's two motions yesterday and placed them under advisement.

Matthew argued Fang's motions. Assistant attorney general James McAllister, as counsel for the CNMI government, opposed them.

Meyer argued that a stay of execution of a sentence of imprisonment is mandatory "if an appeal is taken and the defendant is released pending disposition of the appeal."

He said a convicted person who is either awaiting sentence or has filed an appeal shall be released on the same conditions as when awaiting trial, unless one of four circumstances exists: if the appeal appears frivolous, if it seems the appeal is taken for delay, if the court believes that no condition of release will assure that the person will not flee, and if the court believes that the defendant poses a threat.

Meyer said Fang's appeal is not frivolous and that his appeal is not taken for delay but to exercise the very right of appeal

of which the court advises the criminally accused at arraignment and before accepting a change of plea in lieu of trial.

He asserted that there is no reason to believe that Fang will flee to avoid serving his sentence if he loses his appeal.

There is also no reason to believe that Fang poses a threat to anyone, he said.

In Fang's motion for extension of time to file an appeal, Meyer said under the NMI Supreme Court Rule, Fang has 30 days after judgment to file an appeal.

Meyer said the sentence was determined on June 18, 2014, and an attempt to file a notice of appeal was rejected on July 24, 2014.

Meyer said Fang may be entitled to an extension of time to file his appeal upon a finding of excusable neglect or good cause.

The lawyer said he showed diligence, although made errors in judgment in protecting Fang's interests, by filing two motions for a stay of execution in the weeks following sentencing.

He said after considering the rules on filing a notice of appeal, it appeared to him that filing a stay of execution would toll the clock, under NMI Supreme Court Rules.

Meyer said where good faith but an error in judgment is shown, a criminal defendant should not be punished for the mistakes of his counsel, nor should the CNMI government incur the added expense of appointing new counsel should Fang file a motion for habeas corpus.

In the government's oppo-

sition, McAllister said Fang is a flight risk, poses a threat to the safety of others, and fails to raise a substantial issue for appeal.

McAllister said Fang, a Chinese national, admitted that he is out of immigration status and likely to be deported.

McAllister said an investigative report reveals that defendant made pretrial statements indicating his intent to exact retribution upon anyone who assisted law enforcers in this case.

Accordingly, the prosecutor said defendant poses a threat to the five witnesses who testified against him and others who cooperated in the investigation.

McAllister said Fang sets forth vague allegations regarding abuse of sentencing discretion, but does not specify which mitigating factors were not considered or which aggravating factors were misstated.

"CNMI believes the sentence is appropriate based on defendant's intentional disregard for laws against poaching. CNMI believes the sentence is also necessary to deter other poachers and preserve the local natural resources," he said.

At the June 18 sentencing, Camacho ordered Fang to serve the six-month prison sentence day for day without the possibility of parole. Fang, 27, was given credit for three days of time served.

Camacho found Fang guilty of one count of ray protection at a bench trial on June 8. Witnesses testified that Fang shot a three-foot wide spotted eagle ray with a spear gun and took the ray on Jan. 15, 2014.

OPA prosecutes accountant but defendant can't be found

Fishermen help clean up marine debris

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, in partnership with the Saipan Fishermen's Association, held the first ever Marine Debris Contest during the 30th Annual Saipan Fishing Tournament. During the competition, MINA challenged fishermen to collect any man-made trash floating in the water. Raffle tickets were then given out to participants and those eligible had the opportunity to win prizes such as a \$500 gift certificate to Joeten, reusable bags, shirts, a dartboard, and beverages. Through the contest, close to 100 lbs of trash were collected out of the water and properly placed in the appropriate trash bins including a recycling bin.

MINA would like to remind everyone to be a responsible steward for the ocean. From everyday litter like plastic bags, plastic wrappers and plastic bottles, to batteries, kitchen appliances, fishing nets and other waste—the trash gathering in the ocean is turning our beautiful reefs into dumps. None of our waste belongs in the ocean. Today, MINA is working to reduce marine debris through a campaign that encourages the community to reduce plastic pollution. The Plastic Bag Challenge is a campaign that promotes the use of reusable bags and decreases the CNMI's reliance on plastic bags. Let's work together for a clean and healthy ocean. Contact MINA to find out more about the Plastic Bag Challenge at 233-REEF or email MINA at minaoutreach@gmail.com. **(MINA)**

The crew of Guam's *Rose Marie* displays their winning marine debris entry. (Not pictured: Ray Dela Cruz of Tinian who also won prizes by submitting marine debris for the contest.)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Office of the Public Auditor has been tasked to prosecute the case against an accountant accused of stealing \$1,367.42 from Big Boyz Marine Sports Inc.

Defendant Michelle Rondon Daniel, however, did not appear at a pretrial conference yesterday morning in Superior Court.

Attorney Joaquin DLG. Torres, counsel for Daniel, informed the court that he could not find his client for three weeks now.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered Torres to make every effort to locate his client.

Camacho also ordered OPA to check the Immigration Office if the 39-year-old Daniel is still on island or if she has already left the CNMI.

Jury trial is scheduled for Sept. 15, 2014.

OPA legal counsels George Hasselback and Ashley Kost appeared for the government at the hearing.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Daniel in March 2013 with one count of theft by unlawful taking.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that on Feb. 18, 2013, Masanari Yasuda, owner of Big Boyz, came with his wife to the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau and provided documents to support their claim that their accountant, Daniel, had stolen money from the company.

Pangelinan said that, according to the couple, when they returned to Saipan from Japan in January 2013, they received several complaints from other companies and from company employees regarding payments.

Pangelinan said she and another investigator interviewed Daniel on Feb. 18, 2013, during which the defendant confessed to stealing company money to pay herself as well as other personal expenses. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



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Registration Dates

August 11-15, 2014
Registration for New & Re-admitted Students

August 18-22, 2014
Late Registration
Add/Drop Week (100% Refund)

Math & English Placement Dates

July 15, 17, 22, 24, 28, 29, 2014
1:30pm

July 16, 23, 31; August 1, 2014
9:30am

Location: Building I
To schedule an appointment to take the English and Math placement Test call the Testing Center at 237-6774/6790.

Orientation Dates

July 30, 2014
Orientation for New & Re-admitted Students

August 6, 2014
Orientation for New & Re-admitted Students

August 7, 2014
Orientation for New & Re-admitted Students

August 8, 2014
Orientation for International Students

First Day of Class
August 18, 2014

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

For more information,
log on to www.marianas.edu
or contact the Office of
Admissions and Records
at 237-6768/6769/6771



www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa
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NMC grad Lacorte passes NCLEX on first attempt

A nursing graduate of the Northern Marianas College recently passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, or NCLEX-RN, on her first attempt. Joy Lacorte, who graduated from NMC last May, took the exam last week.

"We are very proud of Joy and her accomplishment," said NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa M. Tudela. "Given her impressive academic performance and her active involvement in the Nursing Club and other community events, I am not surprised that she continues to excel what she puts her mind to."

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level.

The exam is used by nursing boards in all U.S. states and territories to award nursing licenses.

"The NCLEX exam is both difficult and critical to pass," Tudela said.

"I was able to pass the NCLEX because I believed I could," said Lacorte. "I studied every day and did as many



NMC
Joy Lacorte, who graduated from the Northern Marianas College last May, recently passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

practice questions as I could. My family was also my greatest support system."

"NMC's nursing program also laid the foundation for

studying for the NCLEX," Lacorte added. "The instructors and the program provided the core concepts that were necessary to learn in the different areas of nursing such as medical-

surgical, maternal, pediatric and psychiatric nursing. I'm happy that they will now start implementing simulation labs into the

curriculum. The review course by AHEC was also helpful."

Lacorte will be leaving this Friday to attend Southern Adventist University in Chatta-

nooga, Tenn., where she will pursue her bachelor's degree in nursing.

"I want to pursue a career in which I could be of service to the people of the CNMI and give back to the community in which I was born and raised," Lacorte said. "Without a doubt, nursing is a very appropriate career for that goal. My mom is also a nurse who graduated from NMC in 2008. She gave me a lot of insight of what the job entails and encouraged me to pursue nursing as well."

Lacorte graduated magna cum laude and she also served as the president of the NMC Nursing Club.

Asked what advice she would give other students who are preparing to take the NCLEX, Lacorte said, "Take it one step at a time. Read as much as you can. Pray as much as you can. And just like NMC's slogan says, 'BELIEVE.'" **(NMC)**

Green Meadow School concludes 2014 Summer Camp Program helps service members, families prepare for deployment



Green Meadow School teachers host a "Battle of the Brains" contest between two teams composed of preschool children during the culmination day of the Green Meadow School's Summer Camp Academic Program on Aug. 2, 2014, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The second segment of Green Meadow School's 2014 Summer Camp featuring four weeks of academic programs successfully concluded with a variety of exciting activities showcasing students' newly gained knowledge and skills that could help them when they go back to school next school year. The culmination day was held on Aug. 2, 2014 at Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The event was highlighted by competitions called "Battle of the Brains" for preschoolers and "Team Feud" for elementary campers, which followed the format of a popular

game show on television. In both contests different teams under time limit were challenged to answer questions using speed, intelligence, and correct strategy to win. Cheers and applause from parents fill the room each time their child gets to answer correctly. Cash prizes donated by supporters and friends were awarded to winners.

In between contests, audience was treated to special numbers performed by campers, which included dance interpretation and fashion modeling.

Parents and family members also enjoyed the day as they

participated in the GMS' version of the famous TV show "The Price is Right." Winning teams brought home prize of assorted grocery items and some other goodies.

The culmination day for the second phase of the GMS 2014 Summer Camp was described as an exciting, heart-pounding, and fun filled experience by both the campers and parents alike. Positive feedbacks about the annual summer camp programs of Green Meadow School are making the school administration believe that the program will continue to be held every

school summer break for years to come.

Classes at Green Meadow School for School Year 2014-2015 will start on Aug. 11, 2014. Enrollment will remain open during the whole month of August. For information on enrollment, contact the school president and principal, Mila Merjilla, at 235-2185 or 234-0898 or at green_meadow07@yahoo.com. **(GMS)**

The Guam Air National Guard recently held a Yellow Ribbon Program to help airmen and their families prepare and cope with an upcoming deployment.

In April of this year, the Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron received an alert order for a team of airmen to deploy later this year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The goal of the Yellow Ribbon Program Pre-Deployment Event is to ensure that all service members are aware of the benefits and resources available while they are deployed.

Briefings and resource information on the Chaplain's Program, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and USERRA, Legal, Transition Assistance Programs, Family Programs, Financial Planning, Military Family Life, Tricare, the Red Cross and the 4 Lenses Program were provided to the airmen and their families.

This is the first of five legis-

lative mandated Yellow Ribbon events that helps National Guard soldiers, airmen, and family members connect with their local support community before, during and after deployments.

Staff Sgt. Colleen Flores will be deploying for the first time. "I appreciate the information provided in this predeployment event. It helps to lessen the anxiety of deployment and allows me to focus on my training and the mission ahead," she said.

Two squads of airmen, from the 254th Security Forces Squadron, will deploy this fall to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia to provide base defense and area operations force protection.

During deployment, events will be held for family members to focus on the challenges and stressors associated with separation as well as providing an opportunity for families to connect with one another. **(PR)**



MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS/ GUAM NATIONAL GUARD
Members of the 254th Security Forces Squadron march during the recent Liberation Day parade.

NMC’s fall 2014 registration begins Aug. 11

Registration for the Northern Marianas College’s upcoming fall 2014 semester will begin on Monday, Aug. 11, and run through Friday, Aug. 15, 2014. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during this week.

All new and re-admitted students are required to attend a student orientation prior to registration to be allowed to register for courses. Students will need to confirm which orientation they will be attending by contacting the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6771/6772.

In addition, new students are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. Students may schedule to take the placement tests by contacting Queanna Sablan at 237-6790 or visiting the Testing Center in Building I. After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisers, who will assist students with completing registration forms and creating class schedules.

Students may register between 9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week. Note that graduating students and students with disabilities may register early on Friday, Aug. 8, 2014, from 9am to 6pm.

For more information about applying to NMC and/or the fall 2014 semester, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at 237-6771/6772 or email oar@marianas.edu, or visit www.marianas.edu. *(NMC)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

‘Accounting for non-accountants’ seminar

August is Accountancy Month! The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPA’s and Accountants, or MIFICPA, reaches out to the community by holding a seminar on “Accounting for Non-Accountants.” This seminar is designed for professionals, small business owners, non-profit organizations and all those wanting to move ahead in their careers. Discussions will focus on topics from the Accounting Cycle to the Financial Statements. Learn accounting the simplified, fast, and easy way. The seminar will be conducted by Eloisa Agustin, MIFICPA officer. It will be held on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014, from 1pm to 5pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Registration starts at 12pm. *(Mificpa)*

Marpi to be blocked off on Aug. 29

The Dhepartment of Public Safety will be blocking off the northern part of the island, from Marpi north, on Aug. 29, 2014, from about 12pm to 3pm. The purpose of this blockage is to dispose of a large collection of unexploded ordnance that has been collected by the Department of Public Safety Explosive Response Team. We are requesting all visitors to these popular areas of the island make arrangements to visit

either in the morning before the 12pm deadline or after the operation has completed at 3pm. *(DPS)*

NMC closed today

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in professional development activities today, Aug. 7, 2014. All offices at NMC will be closed on that day. The Student Orientation Session scheduled for 4:30pm today will proceed as scheduled. For campus emergencies, contact 237-6800. Visit marianas.edu for more information. *(NMC)*

MHS student orientation schedule

Marianas High School will be having the orientation for school year 2014-2015 as follow:

- Friday, Aug. 22: Incoming Sophomores and Juniors, 9:30am–11am, School Gym
- Friday, Aug. 22: Incoming Seniors, 1pm–2:30pm, School Gym
- Tuesday, Aug. 26: Incoming Freshmen, 9:30am–11:30am, School Gym. *(PR)*

Please bring an updated student insurance and health certificate. *(PR)*

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medi-

nilla on Aug. 8, from 11am to 6pm. The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. *(PR)*

IMPORTANT DATES

Student Orientation Schedule

- Aug. 7: New & Returning Student Orientation in Room D-1 (4:30pm-7:30pm)
- Aug. 8: International Student Orientation at the NMC International Student Office in Building I (9am-12pm)
- Aug. 8: New & Returning Student Orientation in NMC’s Student Center (4:30pm-7:30pm)

Placement Test Schedule

- Aug. 8: Fall English and

Math Placement Test (9:30am) ■ Aug. 9: Fall English and Math Placement Test (9:30am)

NMC Fall Registration Dates

- Aug. 8: Registration for graduating students and students with disabilities (9am-6pm)
- Aug. 11: Registration for students with PowerCampus # 000000100 through 000013600 (9am-6pm)
- Aug. 12: Registration for students with PowerCam-

pus # 000013601 through 000016100 (9am-6pm) ■ Aug. 13: Registration for students with PowerCampus # 000016101 through 000018600 (9am-6pm) ■ Aug. 14: Registration for students with PowerCampus # 000018601 & higher; also registration for all other new, readmitted, and ongoing students (9am-6pm) ■ Aug. 15: Late registration (for all other new, readmitted, and ongoing students) (9am-6pm)

Congratulations! You have won!

Winners for promotion period May 23 to July 17, 2014

Fiesta Resort Saipan Staycation Packages for 8 people

Name	Smiles Card Number (last 5 digits)	Name	Smiles Card Number (last 5 digits)	Name	Smiles Card Number (last 5 digits)
Charley, Bernard	91909	Penaroyo, Rex John	23107	Tenorio, Evelyn	30402
Ichiro, Ivan	91105	Tangcoy, Kimberly Jaynell	62205		

Fiesta Resort Saipan World Café Restaurant lunch buffet food vouchers for 8 people

Name	Smiles Card Number (last 5 digits)	Name	Smiles Card Number (last 5 digits)	Name	Smiles Card Number (last 5 digits)
Acebo, Kimberly	45007	Jin, Chunguang	28302	Smith, Christina	54903
Ada, Vicente Terlaje	41007	Jin, Quan Bin	71800	Sokau, Larson	28102
Alam, MD Ashraf	40804	Li, Hong Yan	59201	Suwei, Sheryl	51208
Ali, Mohammed Ayub	72804	Lin, Yong	23307	Taitano, Melvia	10000
Barit, Jeffrey	19404	Manalo, Maria Raquel	94206	Tanzawa, Takakazu	58508
Basto Gianan, Virgilio	88809	Mendez, Melisa	03400	Tao, Yaping	23607
Bucher, David	96901	Mendoza, Michael	59506	Tapaoan, Apolinario Jr.	62805
Cabrera, Kovanni	89401	Metayen, Steven	36401	Tudela, Steven	55209
Camacho, Janette	54009	Miller, Daniel	15109	Veloria, Rebecca	45000
Camacho, Rooney	77700	Mizutani, Ryan	82208	Verdaguer, Antonio	95906
Deco, Gilbert	71503	Naraja, Dominador	04704	Villagomez, Thomas P.	47508
Dela Cruz, Sopline	70005	Panibe, Andrea	62202	Wabol, Bonifacio	86908
Dela Cruz, Velma	21307	Paran, Wagner	49800	Wang, Jian Guo	96203
Eina, Carmen	45801	Ponciano, Eduardo	38602	Wiswell, Norman	45809
Falig, Angel Magopna	55709	Qu, Qiang	48309	Wonenberg, Margarita	27309
Guo, Weidong	20202	Sablan Jr., Joaquin	38801	Wong, Yuk Tak	05302
Hernandez, Margie	67804	Sablan, Valerie	31006	Woodruff, Robet B.	11206
Hilario, Crispulo	48107	Salas, Ramon	18201	Yamaguchi, Marichu	04209
Hossain, Anowar	38709	Santos, Shirley B.	71409	Yumul, Mario	10301
Huang, Guang Liang	00205	Seman, Jacoba	99406	Yutuc, Rizza	98503

Winners can redeem their prizes at Middle Road Mobil service station on August 8, Friday, from 9 AM to 7 PM or August 9, Saturday, from 8 AM to 5 PM. Please bring your winning Smiles card and a valid Photo I.D. for verification purposes.

See participating Saipan Mobil stations for details.

All federal and local laws apply. By participating, participants agree to be bound by the Official Rules which can be examined at any participating Mobil station. The winner will be required to present valid proof of identity and to sign and return an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability Release upon receipt of prize. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of prize. Except where prohibited, acceptance of prize constitutes winner's consent to the use of his or her name, photograph, likeness, voice and or biographical information for advertising and promotional purposes without additional compensation. All prize claims are subject to verification before any prize will be awarded. All listed winners will be responsible to register their prizes through the Smiles Customer Service Hotline during hours of operation on or before August 29, 2014 or their prizes will be forfeited.



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CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Specialized Truck Driver
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than August 15, 2014.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

How to deal with the Ebola outbreak

It was a commendable decision—and more unnerving than risky—for Emory University to accept into its hospital two Americans who contracted the deadly Ebola virus while doing humanitarian work in Africa. The arrival of the first patient on Saturday is considered to be the first instance of the virus entering the U.S.—albeit in the care of infectious disease specialists working in an isolation unit built in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Officials of the CDC say there is little safety threat and no cause for panic among Americans.

The far greater risk, on both public safety and humanitarian levels, would be to allow the current Ebola outbreak, the largest ever, to continue to rage out of control in West Africa until it spreads elsewhere. That's what could create a global pandemic. Ebola is not the most infectious serious disease—SARS is more so—but it is the deadliest. Depending on the strain of the virus, the mortality rate can be as high as 90 percent. The World Health Organization said Monday that the disease has killed 887 people since March, all but one in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. One person died in Nigeria and several more people are reportedly sick.

The U.S. and other nations must make it a priority not just to provide medical aid to stricken regions but also to improve the health conditions under which Africans live.

Upgrading Africa's basic health infrastructure is a long, slow, costly process, one the West has not expressed great interest in undertaking over the years. Perhaps this epidemic will help remind us why it is so important. Meanwhile, in the last few days, the World Health Organization has promised to fly hundreds more medical personnel into West Africa. On Sunday, the U.S. said it would send 50 public health officials.

It's not just a matter of treating the illness—the earlier treatment is started the better, but there is no cure or vaccine. There are other safety precautions that should be observed. West Africans must be persuaded to stop the burial custom that involves washing bodies. The World Health Organization has for months enlisted local healers, tribal leaders and anthropologists to help encourage people who may be ill to go to hospitals. But that effort must be intensified as this epidemic continues. It's a matter of convincing desperately scared people—some ill, some not ill yet—that health workers who show up at their doors and sometimes take away loved ones are not angels of death but, in fact, the only chance they have of staying alive.

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Salvador del mujer en el mundo

The title is actually longer, *Los Tres Salvadores de las mujeres del mundo* (three redeemers of women of the world). I was a "C" student in Spanish so I am not parading command of the tongue of Cervantes, though our title was actually bestowed upon my two brothers and I by a colleague familiar with our personal histories. She thought that we had gone beyond the call of duty in one or two actuations to some "damsel in distress," "a maiden in a mess," which might be the closest we come to Cervantes who penned the famous story of *Don Quixote de la Mancha*, his sidekick *Sancho*, and his muse, *Dulcinea*.

Of the colorful characters, you may Wiki them up. Of my brothers, I will leave them to their own stories. Though privy to their history, I am hardly at liberty to write of them here, or even elsewhere. In a time when we value "privacy" above all else, managing self-image has become a matter legally protected, held closely to the chest, so we will not intrude into their domain. But as has been the practice in the past, I will rehearse some of mine so the reader might recall theirs.

First, I hardly fancy myself as a protector, let alone a savior of womankind. In fact, in my own assessment of my journey, now being scribbled in a literary bio-profile that is a work in progress until 2021, it clearly shows that in my lifetime, I have been more dependent on feminine affection and ministration rather than leaning out my shoulder for any of them to cry on.

It is true that numbered among my own assessment of the seven revolutions in my time, that of the liberated women join ethnic minorities, Third World countries, awakened youth, universalized academe, globalized business, and the energized gray panthers in an act of detachment off the restrictions of the past to the fresh new possibilities of the future. What is popularized as the feminist movement in awakened societies is actually now casting a wide shadow across the planet.

Only since 1920 were women allowed to vote in the U.S. so feminine assertiveness is not that old, and there are still countries that not only would not allow their women to vote but also would prefer that they not be publicly seen nor heard from. Chatel servitude, they are!

Changes that have transpired had not been out of the saving graces of males like me either. It has come about with the relentless efforts of women whose manners were not called or considered in polite circles as being "lady-like." Even Mao's revival of the old Chinese saying that "women hold half of the sky" did not influence much of contemporary China to make it easy for women to join the rarefied echelons of corporate management, nor of preferred positions in the political system.

"Saving the ladies," as our title seems to imply, occurs no thanks to me. The function of saving and the role of *Salvador*

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



are passé in our time. Ladies do not need to be saved nor to be liberated. They can manage their own flowering by themselves, thank you. Perhaps, "flowering" itself is too condescending, a leftover from male chauvinism, for in many instances, it is the "in your face" assertion of their rights and prerogatives that females get their way.

As to being a "savior," though the religious metaphor of my upbringing encouraged us to adopt that role as appropriate to being a disciple of certain exemplars, role models, and mentors, it is a patronizing role. Being a savior to many is really an obnoxiously arrogant stance.

In January 2009, a Chinese lady who paid dearly for a trip to Saipan waited for a husband from NYC to join her in a U.S. territory. His immigration petition for wife and stepson to join him in NYC was denied the year before. The lady wanted to find out if they can rectify the matter, if at all. He failed to show up.

I had a trip scheduled for the mainland so I volunteered to look him up. It turned out that he was in an advanced debilitating condition that required a care facility. To bring him to Saipan where the medical attention he needed was nonexistent would have been unconscionable. Nor would wife and son joining him in NYC do him a favor for he would lose the medical service he was receiving by having a caregiver at home.

The lady returned home to Shenyang and mutually agreed with the husband to end three years of marriage. The husband died a short time later after the judgment was inked. Having led the Oleai Marianas Resource Center for the United Methodist Church in various causes, including that of imported garment factory workers, I visited former clients in China, and met our Saipan lady's parents, brother with wife and son, and her son.

Why am I in China? I joined the faculty at Shenyang Aerospace U in one of my visits, agreed with our lady's family to invest a seventh of the cost on a new dwelling for a third of the space as my residence for the remaining 17 years of my existence. I am warmly welcomed into their fold, actually and figuratively.

Savior? Nope. I was the one saved!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Appenas planun areglu

Para todü mayamag yan madisgranan ekonomian tano`ta, sige hu akanteha haf` na taiguine masusede. Gaige la-mayot patte gi diskuidun ginen halom ni ineluluye ni man-ma`gasta deste 36 años malofan. Duru i tininon katne yan uñgag lateria. De hemunos kau guaha para sentadan agupa. Kon-todu monedan familia masaki ginen halom apusientu!

`Nai manana Si Yuus mañgahulu` hit ya sige ta rikonose halom gima`ta ni linachai ni sakín chatagmag (maliñgun guaguan na tiem-pu). Seru i uttimu guinahata gi halom pottanmoneda. Ta tutuhon rumikohe seblan pugas gi sagaña para amotsan talo`ane yan sena. Hokog! Hita pa`gu man-ñgaha` mientras i saki duru bumaila gi ha-lom liyañg sabanan diskuidu.

I diskuidu mina` kosus (kara`) i kahan iya Marianas. Gi mismu tiempu taya` talili`e matatpañge kabales na planu taimanu para uma-adelanta linala` publiku gi señgsoñg siha ni mau`udai gi hilu` antau yan fotmat na pisun planu. Guam ha anunsia kumahulu`eko-nomiaña 24 pot sientu. Hita guine parehu na numeru lau sulun ha-lom ti sasalaguan sumen makat na sapet kontra i tautau. Estague` presesuña antau na planu.

Finatton Ha`ilas

Gi tiempun abundansia, man-mama` hit apacha` sige mangupu yan deñgkut todü klasen tininu gi katkuet lugat. Guaha i batkon aire gin-en Japon `nai ti siña hali`e papa` Saipan sa` mampos bula asu deste kanton unai halom esta i fina` gualu`.

Sa` ya mohon guaha dididi` inadahe ya ta ekuñgog inapagat ma-ñaina-ta pot pine`lun guinaha para `an ha totpé hit tiempun ha`ilas `sino chata`an. Adahe na miyon pot miyon na salape` machuchuda` guine gi mediu ochenta siha na sakan.

Finu` un` saina na solu `an tiempun uchan `nai mafafagte i kan-taru ti nai mattu tiempun fañomnagan. Dios mihu na dininanche!

Ha fagcha`e hit tostus i tanu` ginen fotten tiempun fañomnagan. U sagan ñaihon `nai mas haluñu` linala` i mas man-na`mase` na tautau-ta. Gaige tufuñg monedan familia gi sientimus. Esta ta dis-eseha na siña mohon mamulakes ayu siha na sientimus. Lau kada ta tufuñg parehu tutat ni tatnai matulaika. Dios mihu!

Pot Un` Ritirau

`Nai ritirau i amku`, esta hagas diniñgu ni asaguaña. Pues guiguia ha` na maisa diariamente. Mañoda` ga`ña galagun chalan ni ha tu-tuhon umasiste.

Un` dia fumifila gi cashier para u fan apase na` galagu `sino Pu-rina Dog Chow. Finaisen ni un` biha gi tatteña kau guaha ga`ña galagu. Ha oppe na ahe`. “Lau hu pepega un` puñu` gi betsan ka-suneshu ya hu kakanu` adumididi` `an mamomokatyu`”. Dispues, hasañgan na ginen mapo`lague` gi ICU pot imbeninau `nai todü klasen hos mañechetton giya guiya.

Finaisen ta`lu ni biha kau i na` galagu-gue` muna` imbeninau. Ilegña, “Ahe`, sumuguyu` me`mi` gi kanton chalan `nai ha sufa`yu` i kareta”. Ai, kanaha` mamatai i otu bihu gi tatten i biha chumaleg. Gef adahe hamyu haf` in` fafaisen i man-ritirau. Bula tiempu para umafabrika man-hafkau siha na ineppé.

Guaha Mana`e

Ginen un` tiempu hu offisiona pumeskan halom tanu`. Punta pot punta hu fatotoigue man-ina binadu. Tres biahe sumen seguruyu` na poduñg un` toru yan dos baka. Lau ni unu gaige ya esta namatman i

hihot destansia yan tres paki ni man-achapagpag. Uttimoña huna`en ñaihon pakihu sa` ayu na karera guse`ña disgrasia para bai tinetpe.

Kontodu ayuyu, yan manog hatsadu sen makat hu koni`. Lau gi-gon hu diñgu i lugat ensegidas man-mañgone` kantida i defuntun che`luhu. Hu li`e na ti mana` tailaye-yu` ni man-mofo`na lau sen timana`eyu` patteghu. Hu dagau i tuaya sin ditensoin. Ta`lu, inapa-gat un` saina na bai` kontentu ya bai sotta pumeskan disbuelu gi halom tanu`.

Ayu kumonfitma disision-hu pumara `nai hu tife` munton doni` sali gi Kanat I Edot, hu gotde ya hu pega gi tatten siyan draiba. `Nai mattuyu` gi gima`, taigue. Mauleg libraña ya dudayu` kau u ginipu gi karera tatte. Enfin, hu pega papa` i tuayan a`paka`. Tatnai sisida para bai mana` disgrasiau pot aguagat-hu. Mauleg na eksisiu sa` probichosu yan un` lagnos masahalom gagu`.

■■■

`Nai mattu gi peskan tasi, un` ratutu ha` hu dagau i tuaya sa` mauleg ha` i paire gi nañgon galagu. Pues hu limitteyu` gi tekin, man-dalalag talayeru yan chenchulu. Ti listuyu` peskan katogcha` solu lumulai gi

Strange bedfellows in the Israel-Gaza war

In the Mideast, things are often different from what they seem to be, and now there is an ever-so-faint glimmer of hope in the Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza.

We’ve seen this scenario before: Israel attacks the radical, extremist Islamic group Hamas for using Gaza as a launch-pad to attack, this time with hundreds of missiles and through a network of tunnels dug into Israel territory. The Israeli reaction, brutal but justified, in the long run only adds to the legacy of hate and revenge not only among the Palestinians of Gaza but also the Arab world.

But war can make strange bedfellows. In this instance, Israel’s supporters—tacit, not overt—are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and, believe it or not, the Palestinian Authority. These Arab states are quietly rooting on Israel this time, not because they have suddenly become Zionist, but because they see Hamas as more of a threat to their well-being than Israel.

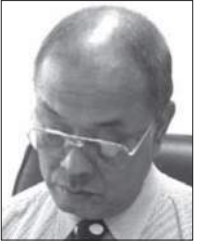
Remember that Hamas is an offshoot of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood—the very group that Egyptian generals kicked out of the government last year. The Brotherhood allowed missiles and weapons to pour through Egypt’s border into Gaza. The Egyptian military has closed it or at least has made it more difficult to smuggle weapons.

And recall, too, that the Palestinian Authority, which lost control of Gaza in a war with Hamas, more recently reached agreement for a unity government with Hamas. Some viewed the action as a further radicalization of the Palestinian Authority, or a pathetic attempt to regain relevance. But from a different perspective it also illustrates Hamas’ inability to govern Gaza and improve the lives of its residents. The Palestinian Authority has its own problems with corruption and incompetence, but it could emerge from this war with more authority. Hamas, among other disastrous decisions, chose to spend resources on missiles and tunnels and to start this war to take attention off its governing failures.

The nations that now support Hamas are relatively small, but oil- and gas-rich Qatar and Turkey have had a working relationship with

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

fina` mattiñgan. Ni unabes `nai hu atrebiyu` kumatogcha`. Mauleg en-nau na offisiu para i manpaire na kabales man-malulog na peskadot.

■■■

Todu este siha na offisiu man-maliñgu na tiempu fuera ke talaya. Los dimas man-maliñgu gi santatte kontodu peska panag yan baku-dañg. Mauleg na lugat `nai pumepeskayu` na tiempu: lugat metkau guiñan ni hihot ha lumusyu` i guinaguan benta. Dios mihu!

By JAMES M. KLURFELD

Newsday



James M. Klurfeld, a former Newsday editorial page editor, is visiting professor of journalism at Stony Brook University in New York. He wrote this for Newsday.

Israel. (But that is another story.)

There is a chance, yes, slim, but still possible, that when the air-strikes and ground assaults finally stop, a coalition of more moderate Arab states working with the Palestinian Authority might find a way to restart a peace process.

Of course, the U.S. government—in the form of Secretary of State John Kerry—must realize that its initial attempt at an early cease-fire, before Israel has had a chance to destroy the tunnels, played into the hands of Hamas and ignored the more moderate states that want to see Hamas weakened, if not eliminated. David Ignatius, a Washington Post columnist, had it right when he said this week that Kerry’s actions smacked of incompetence, at best.

This is all taking place in a context of instability in the Mideast. In Syria, Iraq, Libya and Egypt, Sunnis are fighting Sunnis, Shia are fighting Sunnis, Sunnis are fighting Shia, and Kurds are trying to carve out their own state, and Iran has not given up its program to create a nuclear weapon.

For all the criticism against Israel and its brutal tactics, the reality is that no nation can sit by while an enemy dedicated to its destruction lobbs missiles into its territory and sends terrorists through tunnels to kill its people. But the critical question is this: When the shooting stops, can anything good come out of this war, or will we be left with another ineffective cease-fire?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The fat lady is crying

Lottery Commission, what was that you gave me? It’s sloppy, incomplete, repetitive, up to five copies of the same pages, and not even in order. I sure hope it isn’t representative of the quality of work your employees do up there. I asked for these documents under the OGA.

The original announcement for the RFP for consulting services to investigate the RFPs of the two casino applicants.

- All of the responses to the announcement.
- The minutes of the meeting where the winner was picked.
- The notification to the winners.
- The contracts signed between the Lottery Commission and the two winning bidders.
- The actual report of the investigations done by the two winners and the date it was presented to the Lottery Commission.
- The minutes of the meeting where the Lottery Commission accepted the findings from the two winners.
- The minutes of the meeting where the Lottery Commission awarded the license to Best Sunshine.
- The date(s) and amount(s) of payment(s) made to each of the winning bidders.

I received four, five, and six and about 800 other pages of crap. A

lot of the pages aren’t numbered, no dates, no initials or signatures, most B2G docs aren’t even on letterhead, although they are supposedly from some of the biggest financiers in Asia. At least Innovation gave some real references of companies they have done work for, with names and phone numbers, some of the big times in the gaming industry. B2G, zilch, zero. Not one company they have actually performed any work for. I’m convinced this is a put up deal and you are their first customer.

We were originally told it would cost \$400,000 but you signed contracts, originally for \$400,000, then hand scratched that amount out and “penned in” \$500,000 plus travel and other expenses, which are probably another \$50,000. I guess our Finance secretary could tell us the exact amount since she is also one of the Lottery Commission members and signed their checks. I hope you took out CNMI taxes before handing them over.

Most of TDHC documents were supported with real facts, figures, and actual proposals. B2G, just words, and the first 16 pages just say what services they provide and the “experts” that work for them, even though the three “biggest” experts are not listed anywhere in the company’s online site. Sham comes to mind now, more than when I first looked them up. One company that they used as proof that financing will be available was written on a plain sheet of paper about a company called FT Securities, which I can’t even find on the Web. Must be a big one.

Citizens of the CNMI, you’ve just spent \$550,000 for something

a high school student, not a CNMI high school student unfortunately, could have cobbled together from the Internet and a few emails and phone calls. That extra \$150,000 would have sent a lot of medical referrals for treatment. I could only surmise, from going over the 800 pages, that neither of the two consulting companies actually verified the information received. They just took these documents at face value from Best Sunshine and TDHC, and assumed that the information was correct. What is worse, your government officials didn’t check the veracity of these documents either; they just took them at face value too. Even I can write you a letter, in three minutes, stating that I will lend you \$2 billion but that doesn’t make it so. How long are you going to put up with this crap?

I urge everyone to go to the Lottery Commission and look at that report and at the mess your government made out of this whole fiasco in their haste to push this crooked deal down your throats. You need to vote 31 totally new, ethical people into office, if you can find 31 in the CNMI. How come Guam only has 15 lawmakers and their population is three times ours? If you cut ours from 29 to nine, think of the benefits, and the extra money, available to you. Get smart this election. Find out the issues, and, backgrounds of the candidates and make educated decisions for the first time in 36 years.






Gary DuBrall

Chalan Piao, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼79

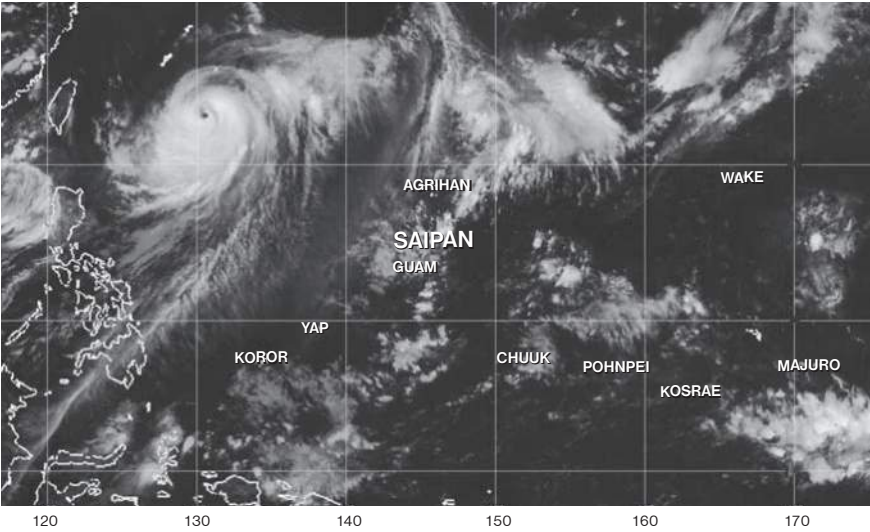
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼51
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▼68
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲60 ▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼66
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼75
Paris	Rain	▲79 ▼61
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲80 ▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲89 ▼68
Salem	Sunny	▲84 ▼54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66 ▼58
Seoul	Showers	▲79 ▼67
Tokyo	Sunny	▲91 ▼77
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼68

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:39 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
6:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:44 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Halong (11W) is centered 305 miles southeast of Okinawa at 23N131E moving north-northeast at 7 mph with maximum sustained winds of 90 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southeast of Okinawa between 25N and 17N from 130E to 135E and over two To Island north of a line from 19N134E to 25N142E. For more information on Typhoon Halong, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A surface trough just east of Guam runs from 22N147E to 5N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Mariana Islands are between 17N and 7N from 143E to 147E. Wake Island curves from 25N148E to 25N165E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 300 miles north of the trough. Convergent northeast winds south of Koror and Yap are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the equator and 2N from 136E to 142E. A surface trough north of Chuuk and Pohnpei runs from 10N153E to 11N162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 150 miles of the trough. A surface trough just north of Majuro runs northward from 9N174E to 17N174E. Scattered showers are between 10N and 17N from 171E to 174E. Convergent west winds south of Majuro are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Butaritari and Tarawa between the equator and 5N from 166E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:15 PM	2:00 AM
Friday	4:14 PM	2:59 AM
Saturday	5:12 PM	4:01 AM
Sunday	6:08 PM	5:05 AM
Monday	7:01 PM	6:09 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am 3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am 3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm 6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm 6, 7
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm 1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm 2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm 2, 4	UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm 1, 5
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm 1, 5	UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm 1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm 1, 5	UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm 1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)		
UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm 6, 7	UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm 2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN		
UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm 6, 7	UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm 2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN		
DL287	6:05am	11:15pm 2, 4, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	3:00pm 3, 5, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287	6:05am	8:35am 1, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am 1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am 4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
MU7076	4:15am	6:50am 2, 6	MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1 1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
MU764A	3:30am	7:30am 4, 7	MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1 3, 6
MU764	4:00am	8:00am 1, 5	MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN		
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am 2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am 1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am 3, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm 2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1 7 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm 1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm 3 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1 6 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm 6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1 1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm 2 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1 4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm 5 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1 4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm 1 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1 1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm 4 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1 2 via GUM
			UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1 5 via GUM
			UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1 5 via GUM
			UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am 1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm 3 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm 1, 5, 6 via GUM	D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1 Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm 6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm 1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1 1, 3 via GUM-Rota
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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MCS Drama Camp concludes with a sold-out show



Kids Drama Camp participants and counselors gather for a final group portrait at the conclusion of the camp.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Kids Drama Camp run by Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club concluded last week with a sold-out show at Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club. The venue was pushed to its capacity with standing-room only seating for many as the camp's show, *Shakespeare Meets Dis-*

ney, brought in over 200 audience members.

"We never knew we could sell out a show in the summer," said school president and camp project director Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "This proves that our community truly appreciates the perform-

ing arts and that our kids, no matter how young they are, can do Shakespeare!"

The camp involved 50 kids, ages 6 through 12, from throughout the island, all of whom performed in the show, which featured abridged children's versions of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, *Hamlet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Each play was enlivened by popular Disney songs like *Let It Go* from the

film *Frozen* and *Can You Feel the Love Tonight* from the film *The Lion King*. The show was the culmination of six weeks of studying theater, preparing props, costumes, and set pieces, and rehearsing lines, songs, and choreography.

Many parents were happy not just with the show but with the entire camp experience. One parent, Hazel Dela Santa, said the camp was "truly a wonderful experience for our

children." Her daughter, Heleyna, played the role of Ariel in *The Tempest*.

Another parent, Filmah Buenafior, said that her son, Tobi, "learned a lot and had a great time." Tobi played the role of Fortinbras in *Hamlet*.

In surveys completed for the camp, many parents also urged the school to offer the camp again next summer.

The Drama Camp was hosted by the school's Theatre Club,

whose members served as camp counselors. Since its inception in 1996, the school's Theatre Club has staged 34 productions, including 11 by Shakespeare and four by Disney.

The Kids Drama Camp and its show, *Shakespeare Meets Disney*, were made possible by a grant from the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care and Development Fund Program. (*MCS*)



Ranasia Bocago sings *Let It Go* as Queen Gertrude in *Hamlet*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Maui Silva, left, as Lysander and Seoni Rae Camacho, right, as Hermia perform in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Mark Brian Azarcon performs as Prospero in *The Tempest*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Cast members sing and dance the grand finale *Circle of Life*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The show sold out as Charley's Cabaret filled up to standing-room only.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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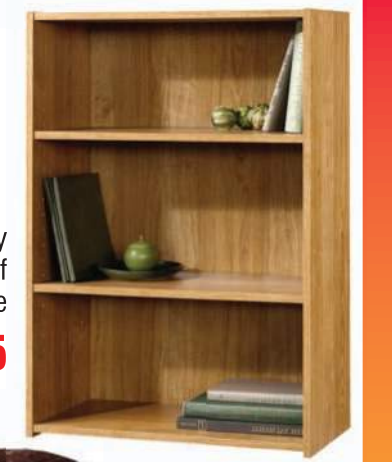
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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Business

7 steps to more secure passwords

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Rarely does a week go by without news of another hacking incident. On Tuesday, *The New York Times* reported that a Russian crime ring had amassed some 1.2 billion username and password combinations.

The *Times* report, based on information from Milwaukee-based Hold Security, called the data “the largest known collection of stolen Internet credentials.” Hold’s researchers did not identify the origins of the data or name the victim websites, citing nondisclosure agreements. The company also said it didn’t want to name companies whose websites are still vulnerable to hacking, according to the *Times* report.

Security threats have long been part of online life, but the increased attention on them makes now a good time to review ways to protect yourself.

If there’s reason to believe any of your passwords might have been compromised, change them immediately. One of the best things you can do is to make sure your passwords are strong. Here are seven ways to fortify them:

1 Make your password long. The recommended minimum is eight characters, but 14 is better and 25 is even better than that. Some services have character limits on passwords, though.

2 Use combinations of letters and numbers, upper and lower case and sym-

bols such as the exclamation mark. Some services won’t let you do all of that, but try to vary it as much as you can. “Pa\$S-WoRd!43” is far better than “password43.”

3 Avoid words that are in dictionaries, even if you add numbers and symbols. There are programs that can crack passwords by going through databases of known words. One trick is to add numbers in the middle of a word—as in “pas123swor456d” instead of “password123456.” Another is to think of a sentence and use just the first letter of each word—as in “tqbfjotld” for “the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.”

4 Substitute characters. For instance, use the number zero instead of the letter O, or replace the S with a dollar sign.

5 Avoid easy-to-guess words, even if they aren’t in the dictionary. You shouldn’t use your name, company name or hometown, for instance. Avoid pets and relatives’ names, too. Likewise, avoid things that can be looked up, such as your birthday or ZIP code. But you might use that as part of a complex password. Try reversing your ZIP code or phone number and insert that into a string of letters. As a reminder, you should also avoid “password” as the password, or consecutive keys on the keyboard, such as “1234” or “qwerty.”

6 Never reuse passwords on other accounts—with two exceptions. Over the years, I’ve managed to create hundreds of accounts. Many are for one-time use, such

as when a newspaper website requires me to register to read the full story. It’s OK to use simple passwords and repeat them in those types of situations, as long as the password isn’t unlocking features that involve credit cards or posting on a message board. That will let you focus on keeping passwords to the more essential accounts strong.

The other exception is to log in using a centralized sign-on service such as Facebook Connect. Hulu, for instance, gives you the option of using your Facebook username and password instead of creating a separate one for the video site. This technically isn’t reusing your password, but a matter of Hulu borrowing the log-in system Facebook already has in place. The account information isn’t stored with Hulu. Facebook merely tells Hulu’s computers that it’s you. Of course, if you do this, it’s even more important to keep your Facebook password secure.

7 Some services such as Gmail even give you the option of using two passwords when you use a particular computer or device for the first time. If you have that feature turned on, the service will send a text message with a six-digit code to your phone when you try to use Gmail from an unrecognized device. You’ll need to enter that for access, and then the code expires. It’s optional, and it’s a pain—but it could save you from grief later on. Hackers won’t be able to access the account without possessing your phone. Turn it on by going to the account’s security settings.

of a corporate entity he once controlled, because it has allowed its two Atlantic City casinos, the Trump Plaza and the Trump Taj Mahal, to fall into disrepair, tarnishing his personal brand and confusing customers.

Wildlife refuges phasing out GMO crops, pesticides

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP)—National wildlife refuges around the country are phasing out genetically modified crops and a class of pesticides related to nicotine in programs meant to provide food for wildlife. A July 17 letter from James W. Kurth, chief of the national refuge system, makes no specific mention of any concerns that the pesticides or the crops pose risks to wildlife or pollinators, such as bees and butterflies. It just says they don’t fit refuge objectives, such as promoting natural ecosystems. “We make this decision based on a precautionary approach to our wildlife management practices, and not on agricultural practices,” he wrote. But it comes after a July order to phase out neonicotinoid pesticides on wildlife refuges in the Northwest and Hawaii that mentioned concerns about harm to bees and after a White House memorandum directing federal agencies to promote pollinator health in the face significant losses in recent decades of insects, bats and birds that pollinate fruits, nuts and vegetables.

Nation

Obama hosts unusual dinner for dozens of African leaders

WASHINGTON (AP)—Take a White House state dinner and multiply it by 50. The result is the most elaborate and unusual dinner of President Barack Obama’s administration, a one-of-a-kind affair put on Tuesday night for a one-of-a-kind gathering of several dozen leaders from countries across Africa.

The leaders are attending a three-day conference organized by the White House and aimed at boosting U.S. ties to the continent. Obama wasted little time highlighting his own personal connection to Africa during a brief toast. Guests were shuttled down to a massive tent erected on the South Lawn because the White House, as big as it is, does not have any rooms large enough that can hold the more-than-400 invited guests.

“I stand before you as the president of the United States, a proud American. I also stand before you as the son of a man from Africa,” Obama said drawing applause. “The blood of Africa runs through our family, so for us, the bonds between our countries, our continents are deeply personal.”

He warmly recalled family visits to Kenya before he

became president, as well as stops at historic sites in Ghana, Senegal and South Africa with his family while in office. And he offered a toast to “the new Africa, the Africa that is rising and so full of promise.”

Among the African leaders who arrived at the White House one at a time over the course of 90 minutes were President Salva Kiir of South Sudan, the world’s newest country, and President Jacob Zuma of South Africa. Kiir wore a cowboy hat and waved dramatically to the media.

Egypt’s ambassador and Libya’s foreign affairs minister also attended. Next to last to arrive was Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, who has pleaded innocent to murder and other charges for his alleged role in organizing violence that left more than 1,000 people dead after Kenya’s 2007 elections. The case is before an international criminal court, and Obama pointedly skipped visiting Kenya when he toured Africa with his family last summer.

Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, who last month visited Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Con-

go and Sierra Leone, attended along with numerous other Obama administration officials, members of the delegations accompanying the African leaders, U.S. lawmakers and business leaders.

There was political, Hollywood and athletic star power in the crowd, too.

Former President Jimmy Carter, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and de Blasio’s predecessor, Michael Bloomberg, a sponsor of a U.S.-Africa business forum where Obama spoke earlier Tuesday, mingled with guests before dinner. Also expected were actors Chiwetel Ejiofor, star of the Academy Award-winning drama “12 Years a Slave,” and Robert De Niro, NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon and Meb Keflezighi, the Eritrean-born American winner of this year’s Boston Marathon.

After greeting Obama and first lady Michelle Obama inside the White House, guests boarded chartered trolley cars for a ride to the South Lawn. Mrs. Obama wore a cream-colored dress by Prabal Gurung, one of her favorite designers, with cut-outs in both the front and the back and her hair swept up into a bun.



ACROSS THE NATION

Boy dies after playground stabbing by 12-year-old

KENTWOOD, Mich. (AP)—A 9-year-old boy repeatedly stabbed by a 12-year-old at a Michigan playground ran screaming to his home and collapsed bleeding on his porch before dying at a hospital a short time later, witnesses and police said Tuesday. Witnesses said the 12-year-old boy went to a nearby home after the Monday evening attack on Michael Conner Verkerke, called 911 and calmly turned himself in, then tried to flag down officers when they arrived. The 12-year-old pleaded not guilty to a murder charge in juvenile court Tuesday, according to his attorney. He was ordered held in a juvenile detention center until a hearing next week. A motive for the attack still was being investigated, Kentwood Police Chief Thomas Hillen said.

More than 100 officers search for Washington girl

BREMERTON, Wash. (AP)—More than 100 officers from 10 law enforcement agencies are involved in the search for a 6-year-old girl who disappeared from her home near Bremerton during

the weekend, the Kitsap County sheriff’s office said Tuesday. They included agents from the FBI Child Abduction Rapid Deployment team. “We are harnessing all this manpower and expertise because we are covering all the bases,” Deputy Scott Wilson said. “We only get one chance to do this right the first time.” Investigators don’t know if the girl, Jenise Wright, wandered off or was the victim of an accident, abduction or homicide. “We have to approach it as if it’s a worst-case scenario and hope for the best,” Wilson said.

Court hearing gay marriage arguments from 4 states

CINCINNATI (AP)—A federal appeals court is set to hear arguments in six gay marriage fights from four states—Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee—in the biggest such session on the issue so far. Three judges of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati will consider arguments Wednesday that pit states’ rights and traditional, conservative values against what plaintiffs’ attorneys say is a fundamental right to marry under the U.S. Constitution. Large demonstrations are expected outside the courthouse by both opponents and sup-

porters. Michigan’s and Kentucky’s cases stem from rulings striking down each state’s gay marriage bans. Ohio’s case deals only with the state’s recognition of out-of-state gay marriages, while Tennessee’s is narrowly focused on the rights of three same-sex couples.

2nd American aid worker with Ebola arrives in US

ATLANTA (AP)—An American aid worker infected with Ebola arrived Tuesday in Atlanta, joining a second patient being given an experimental treatment that has never before been tested on humans. Nancy Writebol, 59, traveled from Monrovia, Liberia, to Emory University Hospital, just downhill from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She arrived two days after Kent Brantly, a doctor with whom she had worked in Liberia and who also contracted Ebola, showed up for treatment. The differences were stark in how they went from the ambulance to Emory, which has a highly specialized isolation unit. While Brantly, 33, was able to walk with assistance into the hospital, Writebol—covered from head to toe in a protective suit—was wheeled in on a stretcher.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama announces \$33B in commitments for Africa

WASHINGTON (AP)—Seeking to strengthen America’s financial foothold in Africa, President Barack Obama announced \$33 billion in commitments Tuesday aimed at shifting U.S. ties with Africa beyond humanitarian aid and toward more equal economic partnerships. The bulk of the commitments came from private-sector companies, including Coca-Cola and General Electric, underscoring Africa’s growing appeal to businesses. The continent is home to six of the world’s fastest-growing economies and a rapidly expanding middle class with increased spending power. Yet Obama noted that U.S. trade with the entire African continent is about the same as its trade ties with Brazil and that just about one percent of U.S. exports go to sub-Saharan Africa.

Trump sues to get name off casinos

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Donald Trump has a message for the two Atlantic City casinos that still bear his name, five years after he gave up anything to do with running them: You’re fired. The real estate mogul and reality TV star, who presided over a casino empire in the glory days of Atlantic City, filed a lawsuit on Tuesday demanding that his name be stripped from the remaining two. He told The Associated Press he sued Trump Entertainment Resorts, a descendant

Asia

Afghan attack kills US major general

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An American major general was shot to death Tuesday in one of the bloodiest insider attacks of the long Afghanistan war when a gunman dressed as an Afghan soldier turned on allied troops, wounding about 15 including a German general and two Afghan generals.

The Army identified the American officer as Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, a 34-year veteran. An engineer by training, Greene was on his first deployment to a war zone and was involved in preparing Afghan forces for the time when U.S.-coalition troops leave at the end of this year. He was the deputy commanding general, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

Greene was the highest-ranked American officer killed in combat in the nation's post-9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the highest-ranked officer killed in combat since 1970 in the Vietnam War.

Five major generals were killed in Vietnam, the last Maj. Gen. John Albert Dillard, whose helicopter was shot down.

The attack at Marshal Fahim



This image provided by the U.S. Army shows Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene. A U.S. official has identified the senior officer killed in Afghanistan on Aug. 5, 2014, as Greene, the highest-ranking American officer killed in combat since 1970.

National Defense University underscored the tensions that persist as the U.S. combat role winds down in Afghanistan—and it wasn't the only assault by an Afghan ally on coalition forces on Tuesday. In eastern Paktia province, an Afghan police guard exchanged fire with NATO troops near the governor's office, provincial police said. The guard was killed in the

gunfight.

It wasn't clear if the two incidents were linked, and police said they were investigating.

Early indications suggested the Afghan gunman who killed the American general was inside a building and fired indiscriminately from a window at the people gathered outside, the U.S. official said. There was no indication that Greene was specifically targeted, said a U.S. official. The official was not authorized to speak publicly by name about the incident and provided the information only on condition of anonymity.

The wounded included a German brigadier general and two Afghan generals, officials said. One of the officials said that of the estimated 15 wounded, about half were Americans, several of them in serious condition.

U.S. officials still asserted confidence in their partnership with the Afghan military, which appears to be holding its own against the Taliban but will soon be operating independently once most U.S.-led coalition forces leave at the end of the year.

Death toll in China quake reaches 589

LUDIAN, China (AP)—The death toll in southern China's earthquake rose to 589 on Wednesday as search and rescue teams pushed into isolated mountain communities to clear debris from collapsed homes.

The Yunnan provincial government said more than 2,400 people were injured in Sunday's 6.1 magnitude quake in the mountainous Yunnan farming region of Ludian county—the country's deadliest tremor in four years.

At a makeshift headquarters in the forecourt of a cracked middle school in the worst-hit town of Longtoushan, a senior colonel in the People's Liberation Army said there might still be hope to find survivors.

"There are a lot of people that we may never be able to dig out," said senior Col. Feng, who declined to give his full name because he was not an officially designated spokesman. "But there is still hope."

Wednesday's big jump in the death toll—up from 410 on Tuesday—was due to rescuers arriving in places where they had previously been unable to contact anybody, in small farming villages built into the mountains above the main towns, said Feng, a military officer based in Sichuan province.

Thousands of troops and hundreds of volunteers have rushed to Ludian to dig out possible survivors from the debris, but landslides and bouts of heavy rains have

complicated rescue efforts.

The quake struck an area of steep hills and narrow roads that are not well suited to all the traffic of the massive relief effort. Landslides have shorn shear rocky faces into region's valleys.

Weather was clear Wednesday and the roads into Longtoushan were clogged with rescue vehicles, ambulances and military jeeps along with residents and volunteers on foot.

The region is prone to earthquakes. In 1970, a magnitude-7.7 earthquake in Yunnan killed at least 15,000 people. In September 2012, a series of quakes killed 81 people.

In May 2008, a powerful quake in Sichuan province left nearly 90,000 people dead.

his "peace declaration" speech, Matsui invited world leaders to his once-devastated hometown, referring to a proposal made at a ministerial meeting in April of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative in Hiroshima, urging them to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. "President Obama and all leaders of nuclear-armed nations, please respond to that call by visiting the A-bombed cities as soon as possible to see what happened with your own eyes," Matsui said. "If you do, you will be convinced that nuclear weapons are an absolute evil that must no longer be allowed to exist."

central leader, burdened by infighting and surviving largely on extortion and kidnappings, according to a police interrogation of Mundos, a copy of which was seen by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Japan marks 69th anniversary of Hiroshima bombing

TOKYO (AP)—Japan marked the 69th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Wednesday, as Mayor Kazumi Matsui called on U.S. President Barack Obama and other world leaders to visit the city to see the scars of the atomic bombing first hand. In

World

Israel and Hamas to negotiate new Gaza agreement in Cairo

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The outlines of a solution for battered, blockaded Gaza are emerging after Tuesday's tentative Israel-Hamas cease-fire: Norway is organizing a donor conference and Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas aims to oversee rebuilding and reassert his authority in the territory, lost to Hamas in 2007.

Forces loyal to Abbas would be deployed at Gaza's crossings to encourage Israel and Egypt to lift the closure they imposed after the Hamas takeover.

Indirect Israel-Hamas talks in Cairo are to tackle the details. The hope is that promises of a better life for Gazans will coax compromise and avert what had been looking like a fight to the finish.

The gaps remain wide, especially between Israel and Hamas.

Israel says it has inflicted a painful blow to Hamas' military capabilities in the month-long fighting and wants to make sure the group cannot re-arm if border restrictions are eased.

"The extent to which we are going to be ready to cooperate with the efforts to have better access and movement in Gaza will deeply depend on the kind of arrangements that would secure our peace and security," said Yossi Kuperwasser, a senior official in Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry.

Hamas, in turn, has signaled flexibility on ceding some authority to Abbas in Gaza, but insists on having a say on reconstruction and that it will not disarm.

Izzat Rishq, a senior Hamas official, said disarming isn't up for discussion.

"We'd take the life of anyone who tries to take the weapons of resistance," he told The Associated Press.

Despite such tough talk, Hamas is in a position of relative weakness.

The Islamic militant group's fortunes changed dramatically last year after the Egyptian military deposed a Hamas-friendly government in Cairo and began closing hundreds of smuggling tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border.

The closures deprived Hamas of a key source of revenue—the taxation of goods brought through the tunnels—and prevented weapons and cash destined for Hamas from flowing into Gaza.



A Palestinian elderly woman walks on the rubble of her destroyed house hit by an Israeli strike in Beit Lahiya, in the northern Gaza Strip, Monday, Aug. 4, 2014.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukraine fighting reaches rebel-held Donetsk

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Fighting in eastern Ukraine reached the main rebel stronghold of Donetsk on Tuesday as separatists and government troops exchanged rocket fire in neighborhoods on the edge of the city. In a western district of Donetsk, rockets apparently fired from a government position landed in the courtyard of a one-story house, killing an elderly resident. The spread of fighting into the city itself marks a decisive turn for the conflict, but one that will arouse fears of an alarming escalation in the humanitarian crisis gripping the country's easternmost regions. As government troops try to tighten their encirclement of rebel citadels, officials in Kiev have warned of a spike in Russian troop numbers along the border, arousing renewed fears of intervention by Moscow.

Dutch contractor selected for Malaysian jet search

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A Dutch contractor will conduct the underwater search for the Malaysian airliner that crashed off the Australian coast in March, Australia announced Wednesday. Fugro Survey Pty. Ltd. will use two vessels towing underwater vehicles equipped with side-scan sonar, multi-beam echo sounders

and video equipment to search for the missing Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777, Transport Minister Warren Truss said. Fugro, which has a base in the west coast city of Perth where the search for the airliner had been headquartered, won a tender process conducted by Australia on Malaysia's behalf. The search is expected to begin in mid-September and take up to a year to scour 60,000 square kilometers (23,000 square miles) of the Indian Ocean seabed.

Nigeria acknowledges slow response in Ebola case

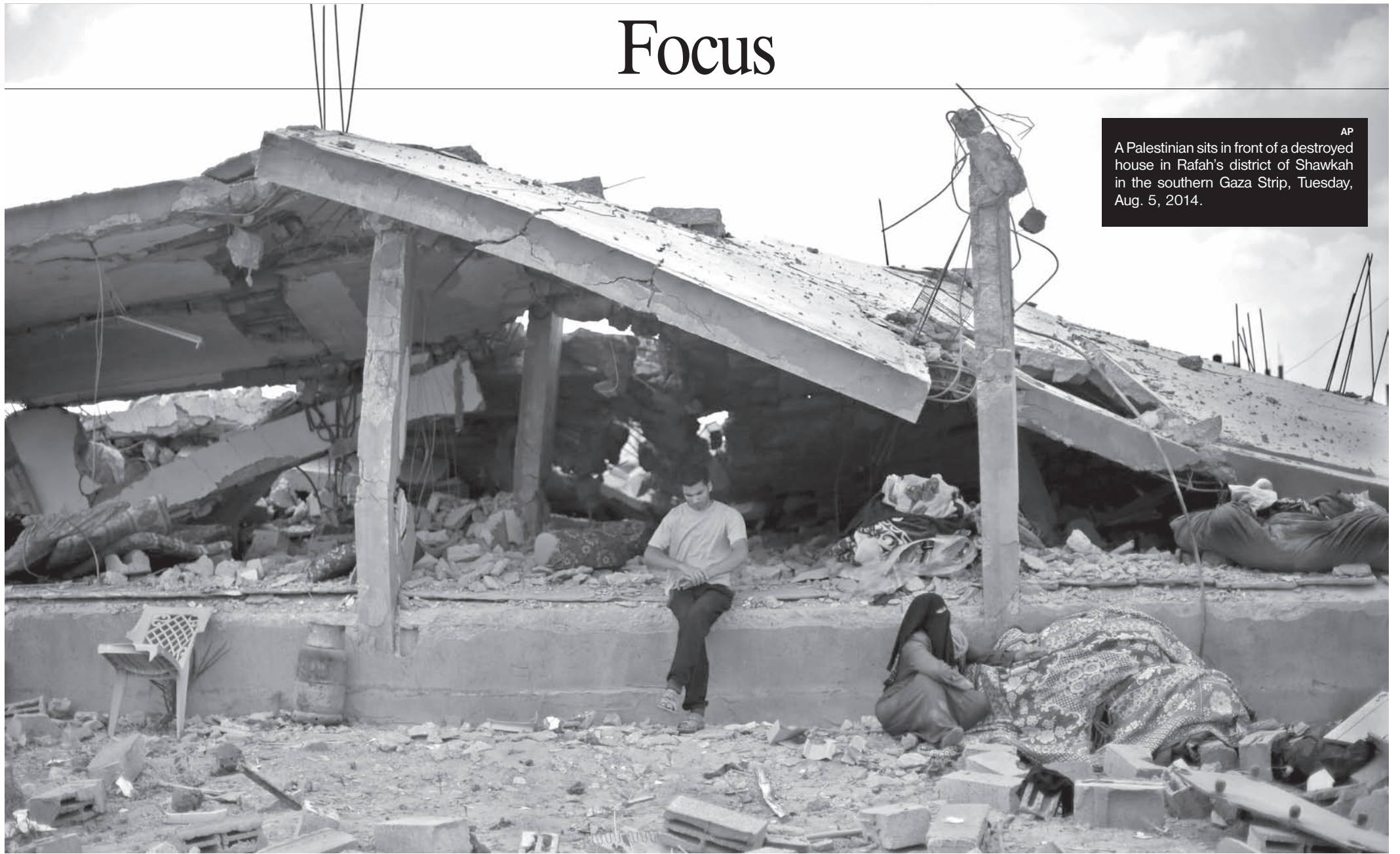
LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nigerian health authorities acknowledged Tuesday that they did not immediately quarantine a sick airline passenger who later died of Ebola, announcing that eight health workers who had direct contact with him were now in isolation with symptoms of the disease. Ebola, which can cause victims to bleed from the eyes and mouths before a grisly death, has killed nearly 900 people across four countries in West Africa, a deeply impoverished region with severely limited medical resources. The outbreak, which emerged in March, spread to Nigeria in late July when Patrick Sawyer, a 40-year-old American of Liberian descent, flew from Liberia's capital to the megacity of Lagos.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Arrested Filipino militant: Terror suspect alive

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A captured Abu Sayyaf commander told investigators that a top Southeast Asian terror suspect, who the military reported was killed in a U.S.-backed airstrike two years ago, is alive and being harbored by a hardline Muslim rebel group in the southern Philippines, a confidential police report said. Abu Sayyaf commander Khair Mundos, who was arrested by police near Manila's international airport on June 11, acknowledged his group has fallen into disarray, without a

Focus



AP
A Palestinian sits in front of a destroyed house in Rafah's district of Shawkah in the southern Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014.

Gaza border town in ruins after Israeli attack

By HAMZA HENDAWI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Asmahan Ismail Abu al-Rous started wondering a year ago about the cause of the cracks on the walls of her Gaza home. When she asked some of her more savvy neighbors, they told her: Militants were digging an attack tunnel not far away.

"I did not think much about it then. I thought that was the resistance's business, not mine," the widowed mother of four said Tuesday, standing amid the ruins of her two-story home in the Shawkah district, an eastern section of Rafah near Gaza's border with Egypt.

Barely 50 meters (yards) away, according to villagers, is an entrance of the tunnel where Hamas fighters emerged Friday to attack Israeli soldiers. Two Israelis were killed and a third was initially believed to be captured by the militants.

That attack drew what was by far the heaviest Israeli shelling in the Gaza war, killing nearly 100 people that day alone and instantly unraveling a cease-fire shortly after it came into force. A day later, Israel determined the missing soldier, a 23-year-old infantry lieutenant, had been killed in the initial attack.

On Tuesday, when a new 72-hour truce took hold, residents returned for the first time to see the extent of the destruction—the worst in a single district anywhere in the Gaza Strip in four

weeks of fighting.

The consequences of living near the tunnel were clear. Everything within about a 1-kilometer (half-mile) radius of the opening was badly damaged or outright flattened. Buildings and homes were hollowed out and punctured or reduced to concrete slabs with metal rods and furniture scattered around.

All that was left of the tunnel entrance, located in a field once dotted with fruit trees, was a cavity the size of a volleyball court. Hundreds of trees and date palms lay flattened or partially knocked over, their roots sticking out, in a dusty landscape shattered by shelling and covered with tank tracks.

Abu al-Rous sat outside, saying little to one of her sons, Fady, who also came to check on the house, which she estimated was worth about \$200,000.

But her anger and frustration were just below the surface. One of several teenagers casually asked her whether she knew where the attack had taken place.

"I don't know," she snapped. "Those who carried out the attack should tell you."

Across Rafah, thousands of others stood amid the ruins of their homes, staring at what was left of their lives. Those who fled to stay with relatives in safer areas or who took refuge in U.N.-run schools returned to salvage what they could.

Men exchanged warm handshakes and kisses on the cheeks,

telling each other, "May God compensate you," and "Thank God you are safe."

"I never saw anything like that in my life," said Tawfiq Barbakh, a 67-year-old father of 12, as he surveyed his badly damaged home. "I don't know how many shells landed every minute, but it felt like 20 or 30. It was like the gates of hell opened on us."

The shelling appeared to have spared little in Rafah. Mosques, homes, offices, stores, schools and at least one hospital were in ruins, badly damaged or riddled

ies on the streets, the wounded screaming and people running away from the shelling."

Manar Abu Louli, a widowed pharmacist and mother of three teenagers, found her two-story home punctured by an artillery shell.

She also found evidence that Israeli soldiers had used her home as a makeshift field headquarters before pulling out this week: empty bullet cartridges carrying the acronym "IMI"—Israeli Military Industries—as well as bread, cans of tuna, sausages, chocolates, carrots,

this damage," said the 36-year-old Abu Louli, holding back tears as she searched for family records, diplomas and other important documents among her belongings strewn on the bedroom floor. Outside, at least four sand barriers used to protect tanks and tracks suggested that the house was turned into a field headquarters for an Israeli unit.

"She is lucky," one relative said. "If they had not wanted to use her home for shelter, they would have shelled it to bits."

Across Hamas-ruled Gaza, the fighting has devastated already-crumbling infrastructure from a seven-year border blockade by Egypt and Israel, and previous bouts of violence in 2008-09 and 2012. About 250,000 people have been displaced.

In the heart of Gaza City, a stinking mountain of garbage has been growing each day at a collection point because trucks were unable to take it to a landfill near the border, an area where Israeli forces were deployed until Tuesday. Raw sewage has been pouring into the Mediterranean after an airstrike on a Hamas intelligence building damaged a pumping station that transfers the waste to a treatment plant.

Nearly 1,900 Palestinians—mostly civilians, including 400 children—have died since the conflict began July 8. The Israeli airstrikes came in response to rockets fired into Israel by

Hamas and other militants. Earlier, Israel arrested Hamas activists after the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli teenagers.

More than 60 Israelis, mostly soldiers, have been killed.

While the Palestinian militants aim their rockets and mortar shells at Israeli cities, Israel says it is strictly targeting launch sites and militants who often embed with civilians. Israel says it is doing its utmost to avoid harm to civilians, warning them in phone calls, leaflets and text messages to leave areas about to be attacked.

The destruction and suffering in Rafah have lent themselves to heated discussions about the war and its consequences. A group of men sat in the Shawkah district not far from Abu Louli's house to smoke and drink sweet black tea.

"The Israelis have hit us really hard this time. They destroyed us," said one man.

"I am convinced that no one dies before his time," replied another.

"Arab nations never came to our rescue," said the first man. "They are all preoccupied with their problems—Egypt, Libya, Syria and Iraq."

The second man retorted: "They should take fighting lessons from us."

A group of younger men then joined the mostly older group.

One of the new arrivals interjected sarcastically: "We have defeated the occupation, thanks be to God."

“I never saw anything like that in my life. It was like the gates of hell opened on us.”

by shrapnel or gunfire.

The Israeli military said Friday the shelling was part of intelligence and security operations to find the missing soldier. Rafah residents said the death toll was so high because the shelling took everyone by surprise since they thought a truce was in force.

"I saw death with my own eyes," said resident Khalil Barbakh. "There were dead bod-

apples, a watermelon and plastic cups.

The soldiers also made holes in several walls for snipers to use, fortifying them with sandbags or bricks. They used her towels and sheets to cover blown-out windows. They also scrawled drawings on her bedroom wall: crying clowns and a scene of a sun, clouds and flowers.

"I don't know whether the house can be repaired after all

Environment

THE ECOLOGY OF BIRD LOSS PROJECT

Can seed dispersal be restored in Guam's forests?

Dr. Haldre Rogers, an adjunct professor at the University of Guam Western Pacific Tropical Research Center, is conducting research of what happens to a forest when native seed dispersers such as birds are no longer present in the place they once called home. For the first time, Rogers and her collaborators will also be examining possible ways to recover seed dispersal in the forests of Guam.

Funded by Department of Defense Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, Rogers and her research team will continue their investigation of the impact of biodiversity loss on the tropical forests of Guam in comparison to forests on Saipan and Rota. The funding will span a period of five years and may be instrumental in the recovery of Guam's native forests.

Rogers, a Huxley Faculty Fellow at Rice University, will be collaborating on this project with Dr. Julie Savage from Colorado State University and Dr. Joshua Tewksbury from University of Washington.

"This funding will allow us to look at how the loss of seed



A healthy Ifit seedling sprouts in the forest of Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

dispersers like birds affects Guam's jungles," said Rogers. "Rather than just cataloging what is happening to the forests, we are also trying to determine how to restore healthy forests on Guam. Our project will study which native seed dispersers would be most beneficial to re-introduce and will examine the effects of non-native pigs and rats as both seed dispersers and seed predators."

Since receiving their first research grant from the National Science Foundation in 2008, Rogers and her team have conducted scientific research on important environmental issues faced by Guam and other Micronesian islands. On Saipan and Rota, native bird populations are intact, but in Guam, where most of the native birds have been lost to predation by the brown tree snake, the cascading ecosystem responses have yet to be completely understood.

For more information on the Ecology of Bird Loss Project, contact the University of Guam Western Pacific Tropical Research Center at 735-2092. (UOG)

By EMILY SCHMALL
and RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FAIRFIELD, Texas (AP)—As murky water snakes through a man-made wetland between Dallas and Houston, its shallow ponds of lush vegetation slowly filter out phosphorous and nitrates until, a week later, the water runs clear as a creek into the area drinking supply.

The 2,000-acre wetland system in Fairfield converts what is mainly treated wastewater that would otherwise flow into the Gulf of Mexico into an additional 65,000 gallons per day feeding the Richland-Chambers Reservoir—a significant contribution in a state enduring prolonged drought.

At \$75 million, the wetlands system cost far less to build than traditional filtering infrastructure and has piqued the interest of planners from places as far afield as Mexico City and Baghdad, where bombs destroyed the water infrastructure. And with climatologists predicting longer and more frequent droughts worldwide, the wetland system greatly reduces the pressure on water utilities and their reliance on precipitation.

"This is stepping back from dependence on rainfall," said David Marshall, head of engineering services for Tarrant Regional Water District, which operates the wetlands. "With potential climate change or

Man-made wetlands turn wastewater into tap water

long-term droughts, we're at risk, whereas these wetlands firm up a tremendous amount of water supply for us."

The technology behind the George Shannon Wetland Water Reuse Project has been around for decades, but only recently proved reliable and cost efficient.

It reroutes Trinity River water—which in July was mostly treated wastewater that entered the waterway 100 miles up-

stream—into large pools where the sediment settles, Darrel Andrews, the water district's environmental director, said. From there, it passes through areas abundant with ragweed, hackberry and other plants where many water birds roost. Along the way, microbes and plants filter out the nitrates and phosphorous from the water, which is eventually released into the reservoir.

The George Shannon wet-

land, which was built over a former Texaco oil field, provides about 30 percent more water to the reservoir than it would otherwise hold—a boon to its 1.5 million users in North Texas.

Although the Fairfield wetland is a hedge against climate change and more frequent dry spells, communities elsewhere in the U.S. have been turning to wetlands for ecological solutions to other problems.

For example, Bloomington, Illinois, is using man-made wetlands to address water quality, not quantity. The community has long struggled with potentially hazardous levels of nitrates in its public drinking supply. So it turned to farmers, whose fertilizer-laden fields helped create the problem, for help.

John Franklin's family has been farming in the small, agricultural community of Lexington, two hours south of Chicago, since 1848. Their land sits in the watershed that feeds one of Bloomington's reservoirs.

The area was once covered in marshes and wetlands, and was too wet to effectively farm. So Franklin's ancestors and others found the only way to make the land productive was to quickly drain excess water.

But after more than a century of bountiful corn and soybean crops, high levels of nitrates, which can cause oxygen deficiencies in infants and "dead zones" in bodies of water where nothing can live, have been found

in municipal drinking supplies.

Rick Twait, Bloomington's superintendent of water purification, and other officials decided to focus on the 72,000 acres of watersheds that feed the city's two existing reservoirs. Working with The Nature Conservancy, the University of Illinois and others, wetlands of various sizes were placed in farming fields—including Franklin's.

The goal was to reduce nitrates by 50 percent. Ten years later, the numbers are encouraging and doable: only about 2.6 percent to 3 percent of an agricultural field needs to be wetlands to achieve effective filtration, said Maria Lemke, an aquatic ecologist with the conservancy who oversees the research.

Franklin received federal funding to transform part of his family's 1,200-acre farm into a wetland.

"It had to be done. We're all in the same watershed. Everything we do upstream affects everybody downstream," he said.

But with corn and soybean crops fetching record prices, it has been difficult to find others willing to take land out of production. A few, though, are participating and once there are enough wetlands, the city will have a natural filter that doesn't require energy to operate and needs minimal maintenance, Twait said.

"It's basically on call all the time," he said.



In this photo Wednesday, July 9, 2014, Chris Zachry, wetlands project manager for the Tarrant Regional Water District, looks over a pumping station that pulls murky water from the Trinity river to be fed into a man made wetland project near Fairfield, Texas. As slow-moving, turbid water snakes through a man-made wetland, phosphorous and nitrates are slowly filtered out through shallow ponds full of lush vegetation and water birds until, a week later, the water runs clear as a creek directly into a North Texas drinking supply.

AP

Life & Style

A digital and divisive redesign of 'Ninja Turtles'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Over the past two years, inside the high-tech sanctuary of Industrial Light and Magic, the man who built a virtual virgin jungle for the last “Indiana Jones” movie and conjured 150-foot-tall aliens for “War of the Worlds” has been confronting his most difficult task yet: creating a digital version of the beloved Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that could realistically interact on screen with Megan Fox.

On this assignment, Pablo Helman needed more than just turtle power.

“For me, in the 19 years that I’ve been at ILM, this is one of the most challenging projects I’ve worked on,” the visual effects supervisor said in a recent interview at his office. “Technologically, it’s very difficult to capture someone’s performance, put it on a character and make it believable. In this case, we had to design a way to combine performances that were taken at many different times.”

“Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” the live-action reimagining of the 30-year-old comic book franchise in theaters Friday, features a completely computerized version of the four sewer-dwelling superheroes, a take more akin to Gollum from “The Lord of the Rings” films or Caesar from the recent “Planet of the Apes” movies than the rubbery renditions from the 1990s live-action “Turtles” films.

The revitalized reptiles were fashioned at ILM by blending



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows director Jonathan Liebesman, foreground right, discussing a scene with actors portraying mutant ninja turtles, from left, Noel Fisher as Michelangelo, Pete Ploszek as Leonardo, Jeremy Howard as Donatello, and Alan Ritchson as Raphael during the filming of “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.”

computer-generated imagery with several motion-capture performances by four actors. It’s a radical departure from the original ‘90s film trilogy, when Jim Henson’s Creature Shop crafted puppet suits for actors playing the half-shell heroes.

For the reboot, the performers physically portraying each Ninja Turtle donned skintight grey getups and shell-shaped backpacks, while helmets equipped with cameras captured their facial expressions. The actors’ bodies were replaced on screen by their counterparts—massive

talking turtles who know kung fu—and their facial expressions were grafted onto the Ninja Turtles’ green noggins.

Despite the effort to construct Ninja Turtles for the digital age, die-hard fans didn’t initially deem the makeover of Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael and Donatello totally tubular. Instead, many were shell-shocked to see in early teasers and trailers that the filmmakers added nostrils and lips to the turtles’ faces, a different anatomy than the one from the previous comics, cartoons, toys and films.

“This whole gritty, doofy, straight-out-of-‘Avatar’ look is not working for the iconic cartoon turtles,” Jason Schreier wrote on the blog Kotaku last May. “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles has never exactly been cool—Leonardo and crew were always dorky and cheesy in a loveable sort of way—but they have never had ridiculous zombie nostrils and gaping mouths like this before. It sure looks dumb.”

Helman defends the human-like faces because it allows the computer-generated characters,

who he said are onscreen for about two-thirds of the movie, to be more expressive.

“You’re never going to please everybody because what you’re fighting is that magical moment when, in this case, someone first discovered the Ninja Turtles,” said the Academy Award-nominated visual effects guru. “It’s not possible to convince someone that these are the Ninja Turtles they fell in love with 30 years ago. The idea is that you have to take the original intent and make it your own.”

“Ninja Turtles” director

Jonathan Liebesman noted that producer Michael Bay, the man responsible for bringing “Transformers” to life, originally laid out three commandments for the overhaul of the Ninja Turtles: they should be charming, intimidating and individually recognizable—not just to kids but also their mothers. Liebesman believes the filmmakers accomplished their mission.

“I feel like once people see the movie, they will understand why we made these decisions,” said the “Wrath of the Titans” and “Battle: Los Angeles” director. “We’re trying to make them more lifelike and realistic. I don’t think it sacrifices anything fans love, once they go and see the movie. I think hating on design is just a part of fandom, which is fine. There’s a lot of value to what fans have to say.”

It’s not the first backlash that Bay and the team at his Platinum Dunes production company, which is producing “Ninja Turtles,” have experienced. When the filmmaker originally unveiled his computer-generated interpretation of the Transformers, hardcore fans were enraged that Bay added flames to Optimus Prime’s paint job. The film franchise went on to make more than \$3.5 billion.

“You can’t win, so we’ve just tried to present the best version of what we’re doing,” said “Ninja Turtles” producer Brad Fuller, who previously worked on “The Purge” films. “The movie speaks for itself. I wonder if all the discourse about the film is a good thing or a bad thing. I don’t know if there’s actually a way that you can determine whether it’s good or bad.”

By **FRAZIER MOORE**
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—“I float around,” says Josh Thomas, “and I’ve just been very lucky.”

The 27-year-old Australian comedian is trying to account for his success in what he’d argue is the absence of ambition or strategy.

Still, look at him: a star Down Under and the leading man, writer and executive producer of his own half-hour comedy-drama, “Please Like Me,” which begins a 10-episode sophomore season on the Pivot network on Friday at 10:30 p.m. EDT.

A study in budding adulthood and its pitfalls, the series might be described as “Seinfeld” blended with a guy-centric “Girls.” Last season it followed Josh, a young Melbournite, as he loved and lost a girlfriend, then, acknowledging he’s gay, loved and lost a boyfriend. He

‘Please Like Me’ lets its comic creator be himself

came out to his divorced parents while coping with his father’s overbearing new wife and with his bipolar mother’s wild mood swings. But through it all, Josh kept his head above water. He’s a bloke who floats around.

Thomas has ample material from his own life to fuel his series, just as, a decade ago, it powered his entry into stand-up when he began showing up at Melbourne clubs for open-mic sessions.

“My first routine was about my mum deciding to buy me condoms: She asked me what size I wanted.” A chuckle. “NOW I realize she’s bipolar.”

“I was 17!” he responds to the suggestion he was brave to give stand-up a try. “I wasn’t making a lot of great choices. You should have seen what I was wearing then. And I had a GIRLFRIEND! I didn’t have a lot

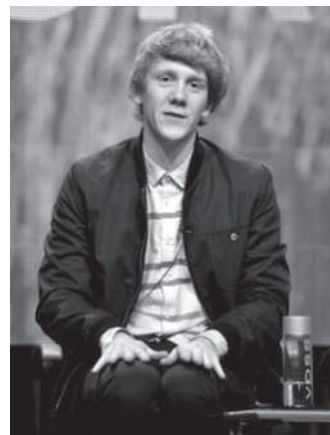
of stuff sorted out.”

Interviewed recently on a visit to New York, Thomas is clad in a sweater featuring a large ladybug. He’s gangly and fidgety, yet charming and armed with an infectious cackly laugh.

He says his stand-up dates and TV appearances in Australia won him a surprisingly varied audience: “60-year-olds, young couples, gays, a few lesbians. And a lot of teenage girl fans who didn’t have enough self-esteem to have a crush on Justin Bieber—they wanted someone more accessible.”

“I really loved stand-up,” he says. “But I thought I’d be OK at writing a sitcom, ‘cause narrative is what my stand-up was anyway.”

Thomas says he’s not so different from the character he crafted for the show: “It’s just me saying what I would say if



This July 10, 2014 file photo shows 27-year-old Australian comedian Josh Thomas, creator, writer and star of “Please Like Me,” speaking at the Pivot panel during the Summer TCAs in Beverly Hills, Calif.

the stuff I write was really happening. And I try to say it the way I would say it in real life.” It’s all a work in progress.

Like him.

“When we were pitching the show,” he recalls, “Josh was straight. I came out after that. So I had a meeting with the network and said, ‘There’s been some script changes.’”

Originally aired on Australian television, “Please Like Me” was acquired by Pivot, which initially considered refilming it with Thomas as an Aussie living in the U.S. “But then they decided to keep it the way it is.”

As production began on Season 2, “I tried to keep it truthful, honest-seeming,” says Thomas. “But it’s not a life guide.”

Indeed, a viewer would be hard-pressed to find any obvious guidelines. At one moment, TV-Josh is self-centered and lackadaisical. The next, compassionate and responsible. Then, in the blink of an eye, he’s back in slacker mode.

“Josh is inconsistent,” Thomas agrees, “but it annoys me when a TV character always acts the same way. You don’t know if Josh is going to walk away from a problem or sit down and solve it. But he’s just me, and on any given day, I don’t know what I’d do either.”

Nor does he know what he might like to do next, he says as he speaks of Hollywood agents advising him on how to take his career to the next level. What would really make him happy? A third “Please Like Me” season (which was recently ordered), he replies, and a fourth after that.

“I don’t know why I need the NEXT thing,” says Thomas, who seems consistent in his mission to dodge any master plan. “I seem to have ENOUGH things: I have a dog, a very demanding boyfriend and my own TV show. Plus, I’m just 27. I’m meant to be out at the clubs!”

Cast of 'Big Bang Theory' sign new deals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The studio that produces "The Big Bang Theory" said it has reached contract deals with the sitcom's cast.

With negotiations concluded, the comedy will begin production Wednesday for the 2014-15 season,

Warner Bros. Television said in a statement Tuesday.

Work on the eighth season reportedly had been delayed as the cast of TV's top-rated sitcom held out for raises. Agreements have been reached with stars Jim Par-

sons, Johnny Galecki and Kaley Cuoco for lucrative three-year contracts that trade reports put at about \$1 million per episode for each actor.

Warner Bros. declined to comment on specifics.

Deals are in place with the entire cast, which includes Simon Helberg and Kunal Nayyar, the studio said.

The CBS series about geeky scientist pals and the women who love them returns Sept. 22.

Wesley Snipes: 'You can't take life too seriously'

LONDON (AP)—U.S. action star Wesley Snipes is back on the big screen for the first time since his release from prison as he joins Sylvester Stallone and the cast of "The Expendables 3."

Speaking ahead of the movie's world premiere Monday, Snipes joked that Stallone had him in mind for the first "Expendables" movie but he was "just a little occupied at the time."

"They reserved a spot for me and when the opportunity came along he reached out again and said come join us, we would like you to be a part of this."

Snipes was sentenced to three years in prison in 2008 after failing



to file income tax returns. He began his jail term in December 2010.

The movie makes reference to Snipes' time behind bars with a tax-evasion joke in the opening scenes.

"Whether I do something really funny or really stupid, it is okay with me," says Snipes. "I think that is what life is about. You can't take life itself too seriously."

"At the end of the day, nobody really cares. You're going to be forgotten anyway. The issues and problems that you think are like mountains that you have to deal with now, after time goes by, nobody cares," he continues. "Might as well have a good time with it."

The 52-year-old actor is currently looking for new action projects, with a return to the blood-soaked universe of vampire "Blade" at the top of his list.

"A lot of people are calling for it and I would like to do it," he says.

Hearing rescheduled in Justin Bieber DUI case

MIAMI (AP)—A Miami-Dade County judge has postponed a hearing to determine whether Justin Bieber will be tried on charges of driving under the influence and resisting arrest.

The judge on Tuesday postponed the hearing until 1:30 p.m. Aug. 13 at the request of prosecutors and Bieber's attorney.

Bieber was arrested Jan. 23 in Miami Beach after what police described as an illegal street race between Bieber and a friend.

Alcohol breath tests found Bieber's level below the 0.02 limit for underage drivers, but urine tests showed the presence of marijuana and an anti-anxiety drug. Bieber also was charged with driving on an expired license.

It's unknown whether Bieber will attend next week's hearing.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Jay-Z fan charged with biting off fingertip

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A San Diego man has pleaded not guilty to biting off a man's fingertip during a Jay-Z and Beyonce concert at Pasadena's Rose Bowl. Twenty-five-year-old Roberto Garnica entered pleas Tuesday to mayhem, battery and battery with serious bodily injury. He could face up to eight years in state prison if convicted. Los Angeles County prosecutors say Garnica was at the concert on Saturday when he groped a woman and pushed her into some chairs, sparking a fight with her husband. Authorities say Garnica punched the man and then bit off the tip of his left index finger.

Man arrested at Rhode Island Woody Allen movie set

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP)—A man accused of throwing furniture on the set of a Woody Allen movie in Rhode Island's capital has been arrested and charged with assault. Providence police say the man tossed a chair and assaulted security guards Tuesday on the set, which is near Brown University. Security guards tell WPRI-TV the man went to the set and began asking "weird questions" about the movie's stars, who include Emma Stone, Joaquin Phoenix and Parker Posey. Allen has been filming in Rhode Island since last month. Police identify the man as Mark Spiridakos. They say he ran from the set and was tackled and then was taken to a hospital with a head injury. Spiridakos can't be reached for comment in the hospital. It's unclear whether he has a lawyer.

Sherri Shepherd to make her Broadway debut

NEW YORK (AP)—A wicked stepmother has been picked for Cinderella on Broadway—Sherri Shepherd. "The View" co-host said on the daytime talk show Tuesday that she will make her Broadway debut in the musical opposite Keke Palmer in the title role on September 9 at the Broadway Theatre. Shepherd will end seven years on "The View" this Friday. She has been on "Dancing with the Stars" and "30 Rock" as Tracy Morgan's wife, Angie Jordan. Her film credits include "Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire," "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa" and "Guess Who." The traditional fairy tale has been given a sly and witty makeover by Douglas Carter Beane. The songs by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II include "In My Own Little Corner" and "Impossible/It's Possible."

The Civil Wars music duo announce formal breakup



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The members of folk duo The Civil Wars have made it official: They're breaking up.

Joy Williams and John Paul White issued a statement on their website Tuesday morning announcing the decision, which comes nearly two years after the duo pulled out of a world tour over irreconcilable differences.

The duo met on a songwriting project and had instant chemistry as songwriters and performers. Championed by many fellow musicians like Taylor Swift, their first album went gold and they won four Grammy Awards before personal differences ended their partnership. They released a second album, but did not tour in support of it.

Each thanked fans in the statement and issued a free download of "You Are My Sunshine."

In this Oct. 14, 2012 file photo, John Paul White, right, and Joy Williams of The Civil Wars perform at the Austin City Limits Music Festival, in Austin, Texas.

Battle of the sexes over sex ignites feedback from readers

DEAR ABBY: I just finished reading the letter from "Pressured" (April 23), the wife whose husband keeps track of how often he and his wife have had sex and his determination to have sex 100 times per year. She was wondering if this is normal.

I can tell her that my former husband thought we should have sex five times a week. He kept a calendar of when we had sex that also included who initiated it. I explained to him that I was more than willing to have frequent sex, but that he also had to be an attentive, caring husband.

Our marriage counselor believed he was suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder, depression and was probably a diagnosable narcissist. Surprise, surprise! He pronounced our marriage counselor to be inept and divorced me.

"Pressured" says she has a good marriage, so I assume that means she has a caring husband. I would advise her to do her best to enthusiastically and creatively meet his needs. Most men express love and feel loved by having sex. Scorekeeping could be his ineffective attempt at communicating his need to feel loved.

THE EX-MRS.

DEAR EX: Thank you for writing. The saying "men are from Mars, women are from Venus" aptly applies to the responses I received from my readers about that letter. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Most guys may keep track of how often they're having sex, although more likely it's how long since the last time, or maybe how many times a week. But this guy is an idiot for letting his wife know that he's tracking it, let alone that

he has a goal of 100 times. Hopefully he's not procreating, just "recreating" in bed.

Abby, I thought you knew men better. "Fifty great versus 100 'so-so' times"—are you kidding? Surely you know the saying, "Even bad sex is pretty good sex." We guys will take it any way, any how, anytime. For us, it's all good, all the time.

DAN IN IRVING, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: Unfortunately, my husband also likes to keep a running tab of our sexual frequency. It galls me.

I saw a movie years ago in which a couple saw the same therapist and one tells the counselor, "We NEVER have sex! We only do it three times a week." While the other says, "We have sex ALL THE TIME! We do it three times a week!"

We must consider the other person and his or her needs, whether they're emotional, sexual or physical. Emotional and physical are not necessarily the same.

DENISE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ABBY: For most men, sex is just a little less important than breathing and eating as essential to our existence. Men are getting fed up with being deprived. I have often considered extramarital sexual pursuits, and I feel I'd be justified in doing so. I know I'm not alone.

Men have needs, and should have a right to share intimate relations with their wives. If not, we should be given the green light to fulfill our needs elsewhere.

JAMES IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: I had to chuckle at "Pressured." I have been married 20 years and have five children. I figure my husband and I are intimate an average of 260 times a year. Needless to say, my husband greets me with a smile every day, and our marriage is rock solid.

KNOWS THE SECRET IN UTAH

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Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

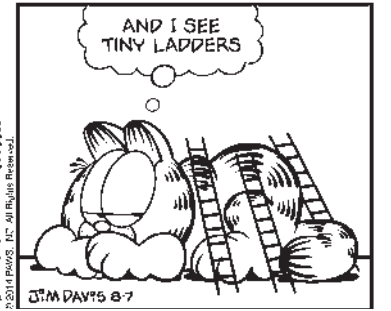
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

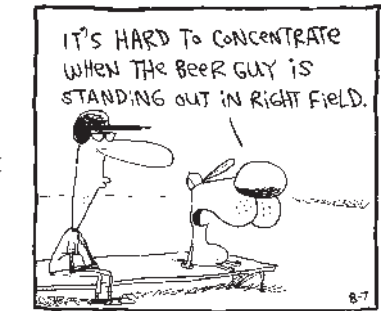
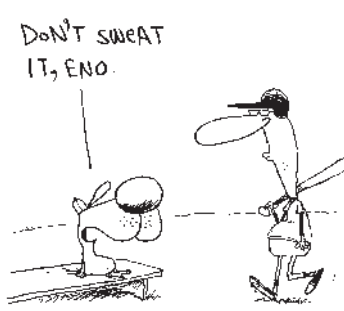


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

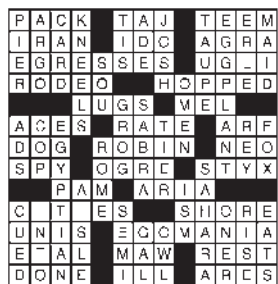


CROSSWORD

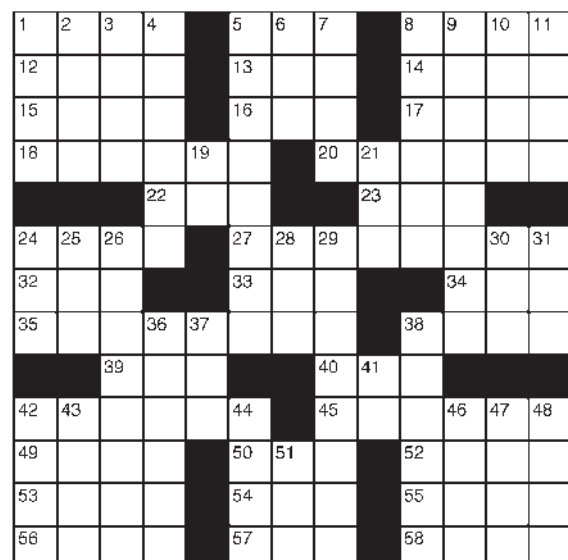
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fragment
- 5 Fa fol-lower
- 8 Greek conso-nants
- 12 "— Rose" ("The Music Man" song)
- 13 Singer Rita
- 14 Cape near Lisbon
- 15 Finished
- 16 Artesian appella-tion
- 17 Part of the loop
- 18 Insist on
- 20 Praline ingredi-ents
- 22 Homer's interjec-tion
- 23 Old pro
- 24 Saga-cious
- 27 Lamb, for example
- 32 Green prefix
- 33 Berlin's "What'll —?"
- 34 Pen point
- 35 C-note, slangily
- 38 Actress Pinkett Smith
- 39 Festive
- 40 Have bills
- 42 "The Da Vinci Code" monk
- 45 Decline
- 49 Seethe
- 50 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
- 52 Hexagonal state
- 53 Farm fraction
- 54 Flightless bird
- 55 Church section
- 56 Lincoln in-law
- 57 Chances, for short
- 58 Certain sch.
- DOWN**
- 1 Doltish sort
- 2 Apiary structure
- 3 The same (Lat.)
- 4 Proces-sion
- 5 "Send in the Clowns" writer
- 6 Acapulco gold
- 7 Aladdin's find
- 8 Expen-sive
- 9 Short musical work
- 10 PC picture
- 11 Without
- 19 "Unh-unh"
- 21 Lon-goria or Mendes
- 24 Symbol of intrigue
- 25 Lemieux milieu
- 26 Wren, for instance
- 28 Reagan-era prog.
- 29 Loud
- 30 Comical
- 31 Timetable abbr.
- 36 Incarcer-ated
- 37 Author Rand
- 38 Insipid
- 41 Lindbergh book
- 42 Blind as —
- 43 Crazy
- 44 Bread spread
- 46 Handy pc. of Latin
- 47 Bear lair
- 48 Yon folks
- 51 Pump up the volume

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-7



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Abbie Cornish, 32; Charlize Theron, 39; David Duchovny, 54; Wayne Knight, 59.

Happy Birthday: Don't waste time thinking about making changes—get the ball rolling. Take the initiative and strive to reach your goals. Change is imminent, so you might as well do your best to bring about positive results instead of lagging behind due to uncertainty. Show how diverse you can be. Present, promote and move forward. Your numbers are 4, 11, 27, 30, 43, 46, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Working in unison with someone creative will bring out the best in you. Your extensive, comprehensive vision and expressive way of articulating what you want to do or see happen will help you gain momentum and the support required to excel. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Family matters must be handled quickly and conservatively before they have a chance to spin out of control. A miscalculation or underestimating the extent of a situation you face will lead to frustration, limitation or complaints. A conservative, diplomatic approach will win out in the end. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Give whatever challenge you pursue your best shot. Staying on top won't be difficult, but getting there will. Stick to the route that offers a straightforward approach and less uncertainty regarding the results you are trying to achieve. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Strive to do something unique that will draw positive attention to who you are and what

you can do. Personal improvements can be made as long as they are reasonable. Travel plans must not be allowed to go over budget. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Jump at the chance to show off. Any competitive event or activity will add to a fun-filled day. A change in location or a mini trip will spark your imagination and help you bring about a positive personal change. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Let your intuition guide you in the right direction regarding personal matters and relationships. Taking part in neighborhood or community events will give you a better idea of what's available to you and what compensations will be required. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional matters will be difficult to control. Don't make impulsive decisions or rely on unpredictable individuals making unrealistic promises. Take care of important issues and you will have no regrets. Don't let anyone interfere with taking care of your responsibilities. ★★

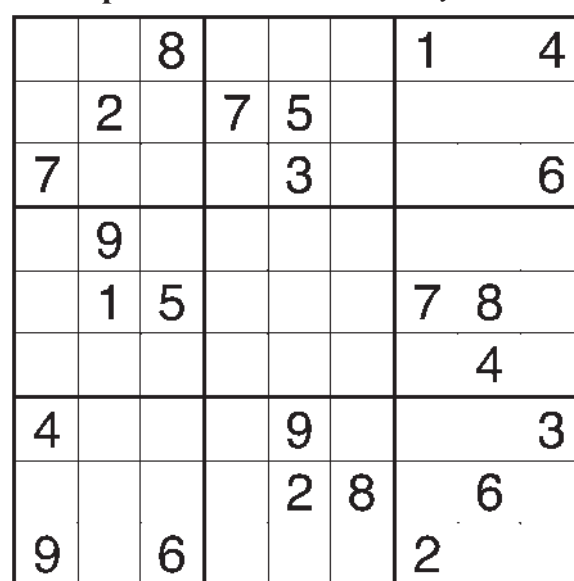
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An offer you receive isn't likely to be realistic or to your advantage. Go over details carefully and back away from anything or anyone that appears to be unstable. Take over and you will be able to control the outcome. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Explore the possibilities. Learn what you can from those in key positions and make changes that will help you move into a winning situation. Altering the way or where you live is favored, but don't overspend or make unrealistic promises. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

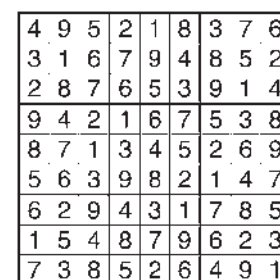


Difficulty Level ★★

8/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look at the facts and make decisions based on your findings. Impulse will be your downfall. Take the slow, cautious route that ensures you end up in the right place and with the knowledge and skills to carry on successfully. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take care of pressing matters quickly and get on with your day. Take any opportunity that comes along to have fun. The break will do you good and give you a chance to consider the direction you want to pursue. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful how you handle money, peers and your responsibilities at work. Don't leave any room for error and you will avoid complaints. Romance is in the stars, and nurturing and being attentive will improve your personal life. ★★



Birthday Baby: You are a go-getter. You are charming, charismatic, strategic and full of courage.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

POMEGRANATE

Solution: 7 letters



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Africa, Antioxidants, Asia, Beverage, Blend, California, Caucasus, Core, Cut, Deciduous, Evergreen, Fiber, Food, Fruit, Garnish, Grenadine, Jams, Juice, Medicinal, Mediterranean, Middle East, Persia, Pollination, Pulp, Punica, Recipe, Remedies, Rind, Round, Ruby Red, Seeds, Serve, Sorbet, Soup, Sour, Sweet, Taste, Touch, Treatment, Vitamins

Yesterday's Answer: Go Man Go

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McIlroy wary of all the hype entering PGA



LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Golf stories about Rory McIlroy are a lot more flattering than those a year ago.

And if he reads too much into them, they can be a lot more dangerous.

McIlroy went wire to wire at Hoylake to win the British Open. Then he overpowered Firestone on the weekend to win his first World Golf Championship. Now he is the overwhelming favorite at the PGA Championship. He is looked on in some corners as a sure thing, a label once reserved only for Tiger Woods.

Boy Wonder is not so sure about that.

"Sometimes I feel that people are too quick to jump to conclusions," McIlroy said Tuesday before heading out for his first look at Valhalla. "I've had a great run of golf and I've played well over the past few months. Look, I said at the start of the year that golf was looking for someone to put their hand up and sort of become one of the dominant players in the game. I felt like I had the ability to do that. And it's just nice to be able to win a few tournaments and get back to where I feel I should be."

He is No. 1 in the world again. He has three wins in his last seven starts. And with three legs of the career Grand Slam—only Woods and Jack Nicklaus were younger than the 25-year-old McIlroy when they achieved that—there was even talk about the start of a new era.

McIlroy wasn't buying.

"I'm just really happy with where my golf game is at the minute, and I just want to try and continue that for as long as possible," he said. "And people can say what they want to say. That's fine. But I can't read too much into it. ... Because if you read everything



AP
Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, signs autographs after a practice round for the PGA Championship golf tournament at Valhalla Golf Club on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014, in Louisville, Ky. The tournament is set to begin on Thursday.

that was being written, I'd turn up at the first tee on Thursday thinking I'd already won the tournament."

The question lingered Tuesday whether Woods was going to make it to the first tee at all.

Woods injured his back Sunday—just four months after back surgery—and canceled his news conference Tuesday. There was no word on his prospects, presumably because he wanted to give himself as much time as possible to see if he could play.

The deadline to register was 5 p.m. Tuesday, though the PGA Championship said players who notify officials they will be registering late have until they tee off Thursday. Woods was among six such players. He is to tee off at 8:35 a.m. with Phil

Mickelson and Padraig Harrington

Even if Woods were to play, that wouldn't take the focus from McIlroy.

McIlroy appears to be in full flight, just as he was in his record victory at Congressional in the 2011 U.S. Open, and just as he was when he won the PGA Championship by a record eight shots in 2012, and then added three more wins the rest of the year against strong fields.

Valhalla, where Woods won 14 years ago, would appear to be suited for him. Then again, just about any course is for a guy who hits it long and straight.

McIlroy said he has added about seven pounds of muscle in recent months, and he is now the heaviest he has been. He

also has shortened his swing, which would make him more accurate off the tee.

"He's such a great driver of the golf ball," Phil Mickelson said as he looked back on McIlroy's win at Firestone. "Even though the golf course was fairly tight and hitting fairways is important, he kept hitting drivers and he kept putting the ball in play and he kept playing the course aggressively and making birdies. And he plays to his strength. He's just a very good talent. We've been waiting a year, year and a half now for it to turn. And it's really turned for him. And he's tough to beat."

McIlroy was foundering at this time a year, missing the cut in three out of six tournaments, not even sniffing contention as

Bears suspend, fine TE Bennett



BOURBONNAIS, Ill.

(AP)—Tight end Martellus Bennett has been suspended indefinitely by the Bears after an altercation in practice the day before.

General manager Phil Emery says the team "made a decision to fine and suspend Martellus Bennett for an undetermined length of time," though he wouldn't specify the amount of the fine.

On Monday, Bennett was taken to the ground Monday with a grab to the shoulder by rookie cornerback Kyle Fuller. The play occurred during a full-pad scrimmage when players are not supposed to be taken to the ground. Bennett responded by getting up, grabbing the first-round draft pick and slamming him to the ground.

Emery wouldn't go into specifics about why the decision was made, saying only, "He was suspended for conduct detrimental to the team."

Neither Emery nor coach Marc Trestman would characterize it as making an example of Bennett, who has been involved in several practice scrapes this training camp, and a few last year, as well.

"I play hard, go hard every single day," Bennett said Monday after practice. "I'm probably one of the most violent people on the field. That's just my style of play. That's how I play. I'm going to continue to play the way I play. That's what I'm here for."

"I'm not really here . . . everybody's talking about friendships. Really, we're all preparing for a championship. If we make friends along the way, that's cool. But at the end of the day, I'm just trying to help the Bears win a championship and do the job to the best of my ability."

When asked by reporters about the possibility of a fine, Bennett said, "I can afford it. I don't see what he can fine me for on that."

Bennett will not be with the team at camp until the suspension is lifted.

"I'll be talking with him today," Trestman said. "We've got a plan and a process in place. We want to go through this process and when the time is right he'll be back."

Fuller was not punished for the incident.

"It's a tough situation," quarterback Jay Cutler said. "I thought Kyle did a great job of handling himself."

Wide receiver Brandon Marshall was seen shouting at Bennett after the incident in Monday's practice. Marshall did not practice Tuesday, but Trestman called it a coach's decision to give him rest and not punishment for the words he had with Bennett. Dante Rosario and Zach Miller filled in at Bennett's spot Tuesday.

"Things happen during these moments and nothing of it has lingered with our football team," Trestman said. "We had one of our better practices today."

Spurs hire WNBA star Becky Hammon as assistant



SAN ANTONIO

(AP)—As a 5-foot-6 point guard, decorated WNBA veteran Becky Hammon has never had the experience of shattering a backboard with a dunk.

She's busting through the glass ceiling instead.

The San Antonio Spurs hired Hammon as an assistant coach on Tuesday, making her the first full-time, paid female assistant on an NBA coaching staff. When Hammon retires from her 16-year WNBA career at the end of the San Antonio Stars' season, she will immediately move to the staff of the defending NBA champions, working with the revered Gregg Popovich on scouting, game-planning and the day-to-day grind of practice like no woman has ever done before.

"Nothing in my life has really

ever been easy. I've always been someone who did it uphill," Hammon said. "I'm up for challenges. I'm up for being outside the box, making tough decisions and challenges. ... And I'm a little bit of an adrenaline junkie. Throw those all in there and this was the perfect challenge and opportunity."

That makes her fit right in with the Spurs, an organization with a reputation for bold decisions. Popovich and general manager R.C. Buford have long been at the forefront of the league's international influx and earlier this summer hired European coaching legend Ettore Messina as an assistant.

During the 2001-02 season, Cleveland Cavaliers coach John Lucas brought Lisa Boyer into the team's practices and some games. Boyer, now an assistant at South Carolina, was not

paid by the Cavaliers and did not travel with the team, but did work with the players and coaches that season.

"I very much look forward to the addition of Becky Hammon to our staff," Popovich said in a statement released by the team. "Having observed her working with our team this past season, I'm confident her basketball IQ, work ethic and interpersonal skills will be a great benefit to the Spurs."

But Popovich and Buford were not available in person and Hammon had the spotlight entirely to herself.

"Congratulations to Becky on today's announcement," Boyer said in a statement. "It's a great thing for her and for the NBA. I am still so thankful to John Lucas for giving me the opportunity to work with his NBA team during my time with

the Cleveland Rockers. His staff and players welcomed me as a coach, and it was an incredible experience for me to spend that season with them."

Last season, Hammon attended Spurs practices, film sessions and sat behind the bench at home game after suffering a torn ACL that kept her from playing. She's been friends with Tony Parker and Tim Duncan since competing in an NBA All-Star shooting competition in 2008, a familiarity that will help as she makes her transition to coaching the two stars.

"As far as women coaching men, it's really silly. People ask me all the time, will there ever be a woman player in the NBA?" Hammon said. "To be honest, no. There are differences. The guys are too big, too strong and that's just the way it is."

A's shut down Rays, Hammel snaps skid



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Jason

Hammel pitched scoreless ball into the sixth inning to snap a four-start losing streak since being traded to Oakland, leading the Athletics past Tampa Bay.

Hammel (1-4) allowed seven hits and four walks in 5 2-3 innings. He entered the game with a 9.53 ERA since the A's acquired him and Jeff Samardzija from the Chicago Cubs on July 4.

Coco Crisp singled home a run in the fifth, and Nate Freeman hit an RBI double during a two-run sixth to spoil Drew Smyly's debut with Tampa Bay. Smyly (6-10) gave up all three runs, seven hits and two walks, including one intentional, in 5 1-3 innings.

The left-hander was traded from Detroit last week in the three-team deal that sent ace David Price to the Tigers.

Tigers 4, Yankees 3

In New York, David Price struck out 10 in his Detroit debut and was long gone when Alex Avila homered in the 12th inning to lift the Tigers over the New York Yankees.

Price pitched 8 2-3 innings and left with the score 3-all. He leads the majors in strikeouts (199) and innings (179 1-3).

Avila homered with one out off Matt Daley (0-1).

Joakim Soria (2-4) got the win, and Joe Nathan earned his 23rd save in 28 tries.

This was the Yankees' 16th straight game decided by two or fewer runs, and they are 9-7 in that span. It is the longest such streak in the majors since a 16-game stretch by Baltimore in 1975, the team said in citing the Elias Sports Bureau.

Reds 9, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Johnny Cueto threw his fourth complete game of the season as the Cincinnati Reds, aided by a bizarre play in which a Cleveland runner was fooled by a second ball on the field, defeated the Indians 9-2 on Tuesday night.

The Indians, trying to mount a comeback in the seventh, had a rally squelched after an errant warmup pitch from Cincinnati's bullpen came on the field.

Yan Gomes' double cut the lead to 6-2 and moved David Murphy to third as a ball thrown by reliever Jumbo Diaz rolled behind second base. Murphy mistakenly thought that ball was live and edged off third. He was tagged out after the ball that was in play was thrown to Santiago.

Cincinnati broke a 10-game losing streak at Cleveland.

Mets 6, Nationals 1

In Washington, Zack Wheeler allowed one run in 6 2-3 innings to win his fourth consecutive decision, and Daniel Murphy's two-run single helped the New York Mets beat NL East-leading



Oakland Athletics right fielder Josh Reddick makes the catch on a ball hit Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria, before losing it when he made contact with the field in the fifth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014, in Oakland, Calif. Longoria singled on the play.

Washington.

Wheeler (7-8) gave up seven hits and allowed a run on a wild pitch. He is 4-0 with a 1.59 ERA in seven appearances since June 30.

In the second and third, Washington accumulated three hits and four walks off Wheeler but scored only once.

Marlins 6, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Adeiny Hechavarria had two hits and drove in a run during a decisive five-run rally in the eighth inning to help Miami beat Pittsburgh.

Hechavarria's RBI single made it 4-2 after Marcell Ozuna and Jarrod Saltalamacchia drew bases-loaded walks from Justin Wilson to force home the tying and go-ahead runs. Christian Yelich capped the inning with a run-scoring double.

Giancarlo Stanton and Garrett Jones also had two hits for Miami.

Pittsburgh's Jordy Mercer had two hits.

A.J. Ramos (5-0) got two outs in the seventh inning for the win.

Jared Hughes (6-3) took the loss, though he could have gotten out of the seventh without allowing a run if not for third baseman Josh Harrison booting a potential double play grounder with one out.

Orioles 9, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Chris Davis homered and Caleb Joseph and Jonathan Schoop added back-to-back shots as Baltimore topped Toronto.

Davis, Nelson Cruz and J.J. Hardy all had two RBIs, and the Orioles won their third straight game, each in a different city.

Baltimore beat Seattle at home on Sunday and won at Washington on Monday in a makeup game.

Bud Norris (9-7) pitched 5 1-3 innings to win for the first time in three starts as the AL East-leading Orioles moved five games ahead of second-place Toronto, which lost its fourth straight.

Toronto starter Mark Buehrle (11-8) lost for the seventh time in 11 starts. He allowed four runs and 10 hits in four innings.

Cardinals 3, Red Sox 2

In St. Louis, Jon Jay hit an RBI single with two outs in the eighth inning to break a tie and lead St. Louis over Boston.

The Cardinals won their third in a row and fourth in the last five. Boston has lost three in a row.

Jay, who missed the previous five games with a wrist injury, blooped a hit to left off reliever Junichi Tazawa (1-3) to bring in former Red Sox player A.J. Pierzynski with the winning run.

Pat Neshek (5-0) earned the win by striking out the side in the eighth. Trevor Rosenthal recorded his NL-leading 35th save in 39 chances.

Rangers 16, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Robinson Chirinos homered twice, and Colby Lewis pitched a six-hitter to lead Texas to a 16-0 rout of the Chicago White Sox, the largest shutout victory in Rangers' history.

J.P. Arencibia, Adrian Beltre and Shin-Soo Choo also went deep for the Rangers, who set a season-high in runs and snapped a four-game losing streak. Texas' last five-homer game came last August.

White Sox pitcher John Danks (9-7) was rocked for nine runs on five walks and eight hits, including four home runs, in 4 2-3 innings. The left-hander leads the American League with 23 homers allowed.

Twins 3, Padres 1

In Minneapolis, Kennys Vargas hit a three-run homer in his first home game for Minnesota, powering the Twins past Jesse Hahn and San Diego.

Phil Hughes had a season-high nine strikeouts in six innings to snap a three-start losing streak. Glen Perkins earned his 28th save in 31 attempts despite giving up a pair of singles in the ninth.

Yonder Alonso hit his first home run in almost two months after spending much of the summer on the disabled list, but his drive to the upper deck in right field in the fifth inning was all the Padres put together against Hughes (11-8).

Brewers 4, Giants 3

In Milwaukee, Gerardo Parra snapped a tie with a home run in the seventh — his first hit since been acquired by the Brewers — and Milwaukee recorded the final out of its victory against San Francisco when video replay overturned a safe call at first base.

With two outs in the ninth, Brewers closer Frankie Rodriguez walked Hunter Pence. Joe Panik then bounced to second baseman Rickie Weeks, who was shielded on the play by Pence before making the throw to first. Brewers managed Ron Roenicke challenged the safe call, and it was changed after a review of 3

minutes, 17 seconds.

Parra, acquired last week from Arizona, homered with two outs off reliever Jean Machi (6-1).

Phillies 2, Astros 1, 15 innings

In Philadelphia, Ryan Howard singled in the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the 15th inning to lift Philadelphia over Houston.

The interleague matchup between teams with two of the four worst records in the majors lasted 5 hours, 5 minutes.

Hector Neris (1-0) tossed a perfect inning to earn the win in his major league debut.

Grady Sizemore led off the 15th against Jake Buchanan (1-2) with a hard one-hop single under second baseman Jose Altuve's glove. After Ben Revere sacrificed, Jimmy Rollins flied out and Chase Utley was intentionally walked.

Howard then ripped a 1-2 pitch, and Sizemore slid in ahead of right fielder Robbie Grossman's throw.

Mariners 4, Braves 2

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez allowed one run in eight innings, extending his major league record streak of games with at least seven innings and two or fewer runs to 15, and Seattle handed Atlanta its seventh straight loss.

Hernandez (12-3) struck out eight and walked one. His earned run average dropped to a AL-leading 1.97.

Alex Wood (7-9) worked six innings, allowing five hits, just one earned run, walked four and struck out five for the Braves.

Fernando Rodney allowed a run in the ninth but earned his 31st save in 34 opportunities.

Royals 12, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Billy Butler had a three-run homer among his four hits, Nori Aoki hit a grand slam, and Kansas City gave Danny Duffy rare run support by bashing Arizona.

Kansas City battered Wade Miley (7-8) from the start, scoring 10 runs off him by the fifth inning. Salvador Perez had the first big blow with a three-run homer in the third, and Butler added another three-run shot during Kansas City's eight-run fifth. Aoki capped the big inning with his first career grand slam.

The Royals had 10 of their 15 hits by the fifth inning and had a season-high in runs, allowing Duffy (6-10) to cruise to his first win since June 30.

Cubs 6, Rockies 5, 12 innings

In Denver, Javier Baez homered in the 12th inning in his major league debut, and the Chicago Cubs beat Colorado.

Wellington Castillo also homered for the Cubs, who have won four of five.

Baez, a prized prospect called up before the game, struck out in three of his first five at-bats before hitting Boone Logan's first pitch of the 12th into the Rockies bullpen.

Hector Rondon (3-3) blew his fourth save but got the win. Carlos Villanueva earned his second save.

Both teams scored a run in the 11th to extend the game.

Nolan Arenado homered and Logan (2-2) took the loss for the Rockies, who have dropped five straight.

Rockies starter Brett Anderson allowed just one hit through three innings but left after one pitch in the fourth due to back spasms. The shaky Colorado bullpen faltered in the seventh.

Dodgers 5, Angels 4

In Los Angeles, Juan Uribe scored on David Freese's errant throw to the plate in the ninth inning, and the Los Angeles Dodgers evened the Freeway Series with a victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Uribe hit an early three-run homer for the NL-leading Dodgers. He then singled against Kevin Jepsen (0-1) and eventually scored from third on Andre Ethier's grounder.


Freese was charged with his second throwing error of the night when Chris Iannetta couldn't apply the tag.

Albert Pujols' eighth-inning homer tied it for the Angels (67-45).

Pujols and Iannetta had RBI doubles for the Angels, who scored three runs on Clayton Kershaw, but got just one hit after the third inning.

Kenley Jansen (2-3) struck out the side in the ninth.

Report: Love trade to Cavs nearly complete

 A three-team deal that would send Kevin Love to the Cleveland Cavaliers and Andrew Wiggins to the Minnesota Timberwolves is near completion, ESPN's Brian Windhorst said on ESPN Radio New York on Monday.

Windhorst said that "unless something unforeseen happens" the deal would go through. Also, Cavaliers forward Anthony Bennett, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2013, would go to the Philadelphia 76ers as part of a deal for forward Thaddeus Young. An undetermined number of draft picks will also be involved.

However, the centerpieces are Love and Wiggins.

The Cavaliers are not allowed to officially trade Wiggins until August 23 due to a rule prohibiting draft picks from being traded until 30 days after they sign with the team that drafted them.

But if the trade goes through as reported, it would put Love on the same team in Cleveland with LeBron James and Kyrie Irving. It could make the Cavaliers a title contender one year after they finished with a 33-49 record in 2013-2014.

Love averaged 26.1 points and 12.5 points this past season for the Timberwolves. He was named to the All-Star team for the third time in 2014.

Wiggins was the No. 1 overall pick this year's draft, so if Cleveland trades away both Wiggins and Bennett it will be giving away the No. 1 overall pick in the past two NBA drafts.

Meanwhile, with James leading the recruiting effort, the Cleveland Cavaliers are growing optimistic about their chances of signing veteran free agent forward Shawn Marion.

Marion was in Cleveland on Monday, where he was reacquainted with Cavaliers general manager David Griffin. Griffin was in Phoenix when Marion starred for the Phoenix Suns.

Marion could have been one of the topics of discussion when, according to ESPN.com, James met Griffin and Cavs coach David Blatt for the first time on Tuesday in Cleveland. He had only previously communicated with Griffin and Blatt by phone or text since announcing last month that he was returning to Cleveland.

The Cavaliers also announced the signing of swingman Mike Miller and guard

James Jones. Miller rejoins James, a former Miami Heat teammate. No contract details were released by the team, but earlier reports indicated that Miller had agreed to a two-year, \$5.5 million deal.

James' schedule has been busy the past month, going to Brazil for the World Cup, visiting China on a promotional tour and shooting a movie in New York. He also has spent time working out and appears to have lost weight through a reduced-carb diet.

Marion played in Dallas last season, but the Mavericks made no effort to bring him back after signing restricted free agent 3-point specialist Chandler Parsons.

Cleveland would bring in Marion as a role player as expectations simmer over adding Kevin Love in a deal with the Minnesota Timberwolves that cannot be completed until Aug. 23.

In that deal, the Cavaliers would part with 2013 No. 1 pick Anthony Bennett.

Marion, 36, is a defensive ace with an effective, if awkward, perimeter shot to spread the floor and create mismatches. He averaged 10.4 points and 6.5 rebounds per game with the Mavericks in 2013-14.



AP
In this undated photo, the Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Love goes for a reverse layup during their game against the Portland Trail Blazers. A three-team deal that would send Love to the Cleveland Cavaliers and Andrew Wiggins to the Minnesota Timberwolves is near completion.

CNMI
From Page 28

Jr. and Eric Atalig joined the CNMI delegation as referees.

With the host pulling off a seven-point win over the Commonwealth bets in their first collision, the CNMI Sharks-PH rematch was expected to be a close one, but it turned out as a lopsided game in favor of the visitors. Thanks to Backe and Failauga, who according

to Blanco designed the Sharks' potent offensive plays and fortified defensive formations, respectively. Blanco added the Sharks hammered the Punishers despite the assistance Guam players and coaches gave to the hosts.

The Sharks were so dominant that they got into the board early to take a commanding, 48-0 lead by the end of the first half, and then closed out the one-sided match with their ninth

touchdown. Ada scored the first touchdown after picking up the ball off a Punishers fumble in the end zone. Standish recorded the ninth and last, as he cut through the Punishers passing lane and completed the interception with a TD.

Sharing the limelight with Ada and Standish was Rangamar, who according to Blanco scored on a kick-off return to the end zone. The spitfire Rangamar would have got-

ten another touchdown off the similar play if not for a block in the back violation charged on Agulto.

Besides Ada and Standish's TDs and Rangamar's kick-off return, the Sharks' four other TDs were all made via running plays. They then earned 12 points off two defensive touchdowns, 14 from seven out of

the nine two-point conversion plays, and four on two safeties at the soaked UP field.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Sharks would like to thank the following for making their PH trip possible: Saipan Apparel, Pretty Tours, Rep. Edmund Vilagomez, Committee To Elect Edwin K. Propst, MARPAC, IT&E, and Kanoa Resort.

ARMATECH
From Page 28

and open look jumpers and take a 24-10 advantage. James Abuy threw most of Armatech's jabs in the first canto, matching the entire output of I Love Saipan.

A resurgent I Love Saipan then showed up in the second canto with Junior Renguul leading the team's comeback bid. Renguul, who scored only two points in the first period, came out smoking in the second frame, firing 11. Three other I Love Saipan made it to the board in the second quarter, as they outgunned Armatech, 25-19, to bring the deficit down to eight at halftime, 43-35.

I Love Saipan moved within three in the third, 45-48, with Renguul draining pull-up jumpers and Dave Demapan escaping past his much slower defender for a couple of layups. However, Bernard Montano scored a string of six points late in the third and counter Camacho's successive baskets to give Armatech more cushion, 68-59, entering the fourth period.

In the final canto, fatigue took

its toll on the six-man I Love Saipan crew, while Armatech's guards had some gas left for the breakaway. Martin Moreno helped Armatech pull away, drilling nine of his 15 points in the fourth quarter. He, Abuy, and Montano combined for more than half of Armatech's total production. Montano led all scorers with his 26 points, while Abuy contributed 22.

Renguul had 21 for the winless I Love Saipan. Demapan chipped in 15, while Leo Ruloked and Camacho also finished in twin digits with 14 and 13, respectively. Ruben Sahagun was the fifth I Love Saipan player to break into double figures with 11, while Luis Ngiraikelau completed the team's box score with his two markers.

Armatech 95 – Montano 26, Abuy 22, Moreno 15, Ebuon 8, Bartolo 6, Malasarte 6, Gatdula 6, Tolentino 3.

I Love Saipan 79 – Renguul 21, Demapan 16, Ruloked 14, Camacho 13, Sahagun 11, Ngiraikelau 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-10, 43-35, 68-57, 95-79.

PIC
From Page 28

with idle World Resort. Hyatt bagged its second straight win for a 2-3 slate and fourth place in the team standings. Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan still leads the seven-team field with its flawless 3-0 mark, while Mariana Resort is at the bottom with its 0-3 card. Kanoa and Shirley's are at the bottom half with 1-3 and 1-2 marks, respectively.

Hyatt recovered from a sluggish start to demolish Mariana Resort and start a winning streak. The defending champion nailed only two fields goals in the first quarter and scored six points. Fortunately for Hyatt, Mariana Resort was still looking for its shooting touch, too in the opening period and tallied only seven markers.

Mariana Resort had the same seven-point output in the second canto, while Hyatt began hitting its mark and more than tripled the former's production for the

breakaway, 30-14. Mariana Resort's 14 points was the lowest halftime score in the league.

The Marpi-based team was stuck to 14 markers in the first four minutes of the third canto, allowing Hyatt to pull away further, 39-14. Robert Bansil broke Mariana Resort's silence with his drive, but that was not enough to spark a rally, as Hyatt preserved the big lead after the third, 50-25, and had cruise control in the fourth to notch back-to-back wins.

Sahj Hossain led Hyatt with his 18 points.

In the first game, PIC got into business right in the opening canto to set the tone of the match. PIC built an early double-digit lead, 27-14, thanks to the hot shooting of James Abuy and Jack Aranda. The duo combined for 16 of PIC's total points in the first 10 minutes of play.

PIC slowed down in the second period, making only 18 points, but Kanoa did not capitalize on the opportunity and was still outgunned with its 12

markers, leaving the former with a 19-point advantage at the break, 45-26.

By the end of the third quarter, the game was over, as PIC's lead ballooned to 34, 69-35. Again, PIC's outside sniping coupled with several baskets from its frontliners made it hard for Kanoa to mount a big comeback.

Abuy top-scored for PIC with his 21 points, 15 of them came from beyond the arc, while Aranda chipped in 16. Big men Darwin Barbo and Demapan also finished in twin digits with 11 and 10, respectively. Matt Duenas paced Kanoa with his 16 markers.

PIC 92 – Abuy 21, Aranda 16, Barbo 11, Demapan 10, Buchun 6, Remillosa 4, Babauta 4, Bartolo 4, Santos 3, Del Rosario 3, Quitugua 1.

Kanoa Resort 52 – Duenas 16, Usi 10, Pablo 10, Lumauag 4, Cruz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-14, 45-26, 69-35, 92-52.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	64	48	.571	—
Toronto	60	54	.526	5
New York	58	54	.518	6
Tampa Bay	54	59	.478	10½
Boston	49	63	.438	15
Central Division				
Detroit	62	48	.564	—
Kansas City	58	53	.523	4½
Cleveland	57	56	.504	6½
Chicago	55	59	.482	9
Minnesota	51	60	.459	11½
West Division				
Oakland	69	43	.616	—
Los Angeles	67	45	.598	2
Seattle	58	54	.518	11
Houston	47	66	.416	22½
Texas	44	69	.389	25½
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Washington	60	51	.541	—
Atlanta	58	55	.513	3
Miami	55	57	.491	5½
New York	54	59	.478	7
Philadelphia	50	63	.442	11
Central Division				
Milwaukee	62	51	.549	—
St. Louis	60	51	.541	1
Pittsburgh	59	53	.527	2½
Cincinnati	57	56	.504	5
Chicago	48	63	.432	13
West Division				
Los Angeles	64	50	.561	—
San Francisco	61	52	.540	2½
San Diego	51	61	.455	12
Arizona	49	64	.434	14½
Colorado	44	68	.393	19
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

SEDA Bud Light League Winners

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Players and supporters of A Division Bud Light Cup champion Sand Juvy Out Lawz pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the Saipan Electronic Darts Association-Bud Light Dart League last month at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.



The Top Gun awardees pose with their trophies.



Players of C Division regular season champion Jokers Shaters pose for a photo.



Players of Flame Tree B regular season champion Naked Fish Ridin' Darryt pose with their trophies.



Players of Fanihi B top finisher IT&E Sand Juvy Navy Hill 4Fun gather for a group photo.



Players of C Division Bud Light Cup champion Naked Fish Hafa Mas show their trophies.



Pacific Amusement Inc. general manager Jim Gebhard presents a plaque of appreciation to a MARPAC representative. MARPAC is the league's sponsor.



Winners in the high-in category pose with their trophies.



Players and supporters of Ladies Division champion Sand Juvy Vicious Darties pose for a photo.



Winners in the high-out category receive their awards.



McIlroy wary
of all the hype
entering PGA

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Saipan Tribune Sports

A's shut
down Rays,
Hammel
snaps skid

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28 THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI Sharks crush PH Punishers



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Sharks players and officials pose for a photo after beating the PH Punishers, 72-0, in an exhibition game at the University of the Philippines Oval Field last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It was payback time for the CNMI Sharks. The CNMI Sharks pummeled the PH Punishers, 72-0, in an exhibition game at the University of the Philippines Oval



Field last Saturday, avenging their loss to the hosts two years ago. The Sharks and Punishers met first on Nov. 10 at the PhilSports Complex in Pasig City with the PH squad escaping

with a 13-6 victory.

The CNMI Sharks brought 22 players and officials in their return trip to the Philippines and were led by Commonwealth Football League Association chair and head coach John Blanco. Blanco also played as an offensive lineman and was joined by player coach Gart Backe,

defensive coach and player June Failauga, and quarterback Jerome Norita. Completing the team were George Lieto Jr., Jermaine Catching, Syl Teregeyo, Derick Rangamar, Butch Kaipat, Joe Ocampo, Jaime Martinez, Caesar Whitt, Glen Palacios, Zac Ruetz, Charleston Aiken, Dave Ada Jr., Vince

Kaipat, Alex Standish, Derick Aughenbaugh, Daniel Agulto, and Jay Tilipao. Glen Dikito

See CNMI on Page 26

PIC, Hyatt trounce opponents



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club and Hyatt Regency Saipan walloped their respective foes in the 2014 Budweiser Inter-Hotel Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PIC routed Kanoa Resort in the curtain raiser, 95-52, while Hyatt pounded Mariana Resort in the nightcap, 76-37. PIC improved to a 3-1 record for a share of second place

See PIC on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sahj Hos-sain goes up for an off-balance shot against Mariana Resort's Jazz Roscow during the third quarter of their game in the Inter-hotel caging last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Armatech keeps clean slate

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



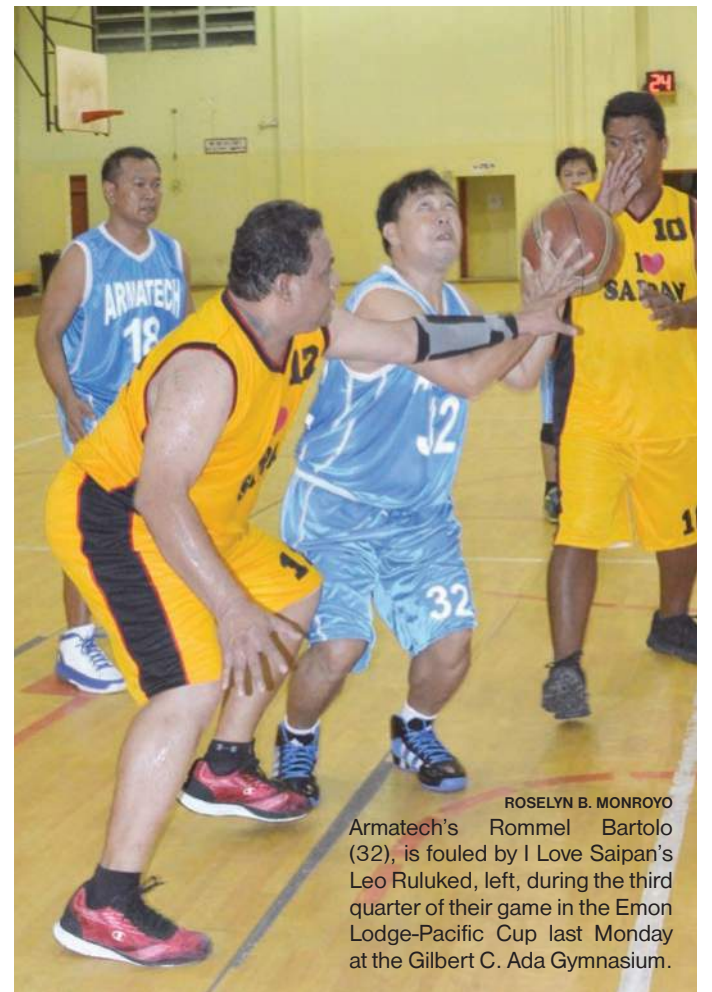
Armatech remained undefeated in the 2014 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood

Basketball League-Docomo Pacific Cup, following a 95-79 thrashing of I Love Saipan last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was third in as many games for Armatech, putting the team in a tie for first place with idle Blue Haus. I Love Saipan absorbed its third loss in as many matches, as it failed to overhaul an early double-digit deficit with its short-handed roster.

I Love Saipan played with only five players at the start of the match before Peter Camacho came in past the halfway mark of the second half. Armatech capitalized on I Love Saipan's depleted crew, pushing the ball hard right at the buzzer to escape with fastbreak layups

See ARMATECH on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Armatech's Rommel Bartolo (32), is fouled by I Love Saipan's Leo Ruloked, left, during the third quarter of their game in the Emon Lodge-Pacific Cup last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.